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TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION."*

CBS News

# FACE THE NATION

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**GUESTS:** **Mr. JOHN EDWARDS**  
**Former Democratic Presidential Candidate**  
**Democrat, North Carolina**

**Mr. TERRY McAULIFFE**  
**Clinton Campaign Chairman**

**Mr. JIM VandeHEI**  
**Executive Editor, Politico**

**MODERATOR/PANELIST:** **Mr. Bob Schieffer – CBS News**

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BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, as Senator Obama increases his lead in superdelegates, Senator Clinton campaigns on. The question: Why? Mathematically, getting the Democratic nomination looks like an impossible feat for Senator Clinton. Why is she staying in the race? Is her reluctance to step down further splitting the Democratic Party? We'll ask former presidential contender John Edwards, who is yet to endorse either candidate, and Senator Clinton's campaign chairman, Terry McAuliffe.

We'll talk about the rest of the week's political news with Jim VandeHei of Politico.

Then I'll have a final word on mama's rules.

But first, John Edwards and Terry McAuliffe on FACE THE NATION.

Announcer: FACE THE NATION, with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer. And now, from CBS News in Washington, Bob Schieffer.

SCHIEFFER: And good morning again.

Barack Obama now leads in the number of delegates. He's overtaken Hillary Clinton in the number of superdelegates, and now he has the largest percentage of the popular vote. So when we spoke with former Democratic candidate John Edwards late yesterday, we asked if he saw any way for Senator Clinton to get the nomination now.

Mr. JOHN EDWARDS (Former Democratic Presidential Candidate; Democrat, North Carolina): I think it's very hard, Bob. I mean, I think, actually, as I've been watching her campaign the last few weeks, I think she's become a stronger and stronger candidate. She's been making a pretty compelling case for her candidacy. The problem is, I think you can no longer make a compelling case for the math. The math is very, very hard for her.

SCHIEFFER: Well, you ended your campaign because you said it was--it was simply not going to be possible for you to get the nomination, and you felt it was better to end the process sooner rather than later. I remember you said that you were--you didn't--you did not think it was being helpful to the party. Are you ready to give her that advice?

Mr. EDWARDS: It's a hard judgment to make, Bob. You know, in my case, I--basically, there were two things going on. One was I had concluded I could stay in the race, keep getting significant number of votes, keep accumulating delegates, but the overwhelming likelihood was I would not be the nominee. And I also believe that if I got out of the race, it would accelerate the process of one person pulling away. Well, I was obviously dead wrong about that. I think it's a judgment that she has to make, and I think she's in a very, very tough place.

SCHIEFFER: It does seem that she has taken this campaign--and there's no way else to put it--no way else--other way to put it--than to kind of a different place, suggesting that she is the candidate of white people, hard-working white people, I think was the phrase she used. Here's the sound bite that everybody's talking about.

Senator HILLARY CLINTON: (From audiotape) There was just an AP article posted that found how Senator Obama's support among working--hard-working Americans, white Americans is weakening again, and how the, you know, whites in both states who had not completed college were supporting me.

SCHIEFFER: Do you find it interesting, senator, that she did not make that argument before the North Carolina primary, where you had a large African-American vote, but now she seems to be making it? And isn't she really arguing that white people won't vote for Barack Obama?

Mr. EDWARDS: You know, I think what's going on, Bob, is she's in a very tough, very competitive race that's been going on a long, long time and, you know, she didn't probably--I'm sure she feels like she didn't choose her words very well there. And I think the difficult place that she's in, is she's not just in a tough race now. And I have to tell you, I'm different than a lot of people. I actually admire some of the strength and fortitude that she's shown. I know how hard it is to get up and go out there every day, speak to the media, speak to crowds, when people are urging you to get out of the race. I mean, it's a very hard place to be in. But she's shown a lot of strength about that.

But I think the one thing that she has to be careful about--and she doesn't need my advice, she knows this full well--is she has to be careful about, going forward, is that if she makes the case for herself, which she's entitled--completely entitled to do, she has to be really careful that she's not damaging our prospects--the Democratic Party and our cause--for the fall.

SCHIEFFER: Well, do you think she has?

Mr. EDWARDS: Well, no more than there being a tough, competitive race that's gone on a long time. What I think is, at the end of the day, when this is over--and I think it is likely, certainly at this point, that Senator Obama will be the nominee--that the Democrats will unite, we'll all be behind our nominee and we'll be out there campaigning our hearts out. And if Senator Clinton doesn't get the nomination, I am absolutely certain that she and President Clinton will be out there campaigning for Senator Obama.

SCHIEFFER: You sort of danced around the question when you were on some of the morning shows on Friday about whether or not you're ready to endorse anybody. I'm not going to try to keep on with this. Are you going to endorse anybody at this point?

Mr. EDWARDS: I might. I don't think it's a big deal, to be honest with you. I think voters are the ones who are speaking in this process. My feeling all along, in addition to what we talked about earlier and me getting out earlier, I hoped would accelerate us having an earlier nominee. But my feeling is also that I think that my endorsement or anybody else's endorsement has not particularly helped with the divide. And I think that actually endorsements sometimes make the divide worse. And what's important here is not me or who I'm for or who I'd vote for or who I support. What's important is that we get united as a party behind our nominee, that we're successful in November. Because the people that I care the most about, you know, the low-income families in this country, working families, people who are having a hard time, those men and women who are putting their lives on the line in Iraq, they're the ones that matter in this, not some particular candidate or some strategic position that somebody's taken.

SCHIEFFER: You this week are launching a plan to cut poverty in half. That is your--is your goal within the next 10 years. Among the things you're going to try to do is increase child care, you want to extend income tax credits, you want more unemployment insurance, you want to raise the minimum wage. Have you been able to get any of the candidates to sign on to this plan that you plan to launch this week?

Mr. EDWARDS: Yeah. Actually, as a matter of fact, I've been--that's been one of the most encouraging things that's happened. When I--at the time I got out of the race, I spoke to Senator Clinton and Senator Obama. I did not speak to Senator McCain at that point. But both of them committed to do a number of things to make poverty central to the campaign, both in the nomination and also in the general election; and also to make ending poverty in America central to their presidency. I've had a number of conversations with each of them since that time. They reinforced that position. I believe they believe it. By the way, I don't know that they need to be pushed by me. Obviously, this is a central cause in my life. But the two of them care deeply about this, independent of me, and I think that they are committed to the cause.

And as to John McCain, I actually spoke to Senator McCain on April the 4th, the anniversary of Dr. King's death, and because Martin Luther--Martin Luther III asked me to speak to him about possibly having a Cabinet-level position to fight poverty in this country, and I got a very positive response. He didn't commit to the Cabinet-level position, but he did commit to doing something about this cause. So I actually feel pretty encouraged about this.

SCHIEFFER: Well, it's certainly a worthy goal. But how much would something like this, what you're talking about, cost, senator?

Mr. EDWARDS: Well, some of the things don't cost anything and some of them do have costs associated with them. I mean, raising the minimum wage, which is one of the things that we talked about doing both at the state and national level, does--certainly doesn't have any direct costs. And in fact--in fact, in places where the minimum wage has been raised, I think most studies show that the economy has improved in those places. And I would add to that, Bob--and it depends on, in answer to your question specifically, is it depends on how much you expand the earned income tax credit, which is what you just spoke about.

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm.

Mr. EDWARDS: How much we expand the availability of child care. You know, there are gradations in how much of this we do.

But I would say, and I think this is an important thing for the country, that if we care about middle-class families, working families in this country, and having sustainable, long-term economic growth, that when--in American history, when we have been lifting millions of Americans out of poverty and putting them in the middle class and broadening that middle class and strengthening the middle class, that's when we--when we've been able to sustain long-term economic growth. And there's absolutely no reason to believe that's not true now. I think it is.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, senator, it's nice to have you back on television again, back to--nice to have you on FACE THE NATION. Hope we'll see you another time down the trail. Thank you.

Mr. EDWARDS: Thanks so much for having me.

SCHIEFFER: And we'll be back in one minute with Senator Clinton's campaign chairman Terry McAuliffe.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And with us now in the studio, Senator Clinton's campaign chairman, Terry McAuliffe.

Well, Mr. McAuliffe, let's get right to it. It's pretty clear--she has made it clear, you have made it clear--that Hillary Clinton is not stepping aside. But let me ask you this part: How far does she intend to take this argument that she now seems to be making that she is the candidate of, quote, "hard-working white people"?

Mr. TERRY McAULIFFE (Clinton Campaign Chairman): Where she wants to take this election is till someone wins the nomination, till someone gets one-plus what we needed to be the nominee of the Democratic Party.

SCHIEFFER: Is that her--is that her strategy now, that she's the candidate of white people?

Mr. McAULIFFE: No, absolutely not. She's reaching out to everybody, it's what we've done from the start. But, you know, we still have seven million Democrats yet to vote. We have West Virginia this Tuesday; we're up 20-plus points there. We're up in Kentucky, we're up in Puerto Rico. Seven million Democrats yet to vote. Probably four or 500 delegates yet to be chosen. This race is very close. We have had 35 million people vote, Bob, 16.6 million for Hillary; 16.7 million for Senator Obama.

SCHIEFFER: But you're counting into that Michigan and Florida...

Mr. McAULIFFE: Yep, mm-hmm.

SCHIEFFER: ...which the party rules say cannot be counted. You also mention Puerto Rico.

Mr. McAULIFFE: Mm-hmm.

SCHIEFFER: Puerto Ricans won't be voting in the presidential election.

Mr. McAULIFFE: Well, first off all, Puerto Ricans, as you know, are United States citizens. They have served in our military services. They're clearly part of the political process.

SCHIEFFER: Well, whether it's right or wrong, they're not voting in the presidential election.

Mr. McAULIFFE: But they're voting in the primaries and they're United States citizens, so, I mean, they certainly should vote in the primaries and I think there's movement that they want to become a state and vote in the general election. But as we say, Michigan and Florida, two and a half million people voted. The Rules and Bylaws Committee will meet on May 31st and they will

determine their status. I believe they're going to include them. But no matter what happens, the DNC controls delegates, they don't control the popular vote. These people voted, they were certified at the county level and the state level. There's no question they voted. The issue is about the delegates, but they voted.

SCHIEFFER: Well, I mean, I go back to where you were chairman of the DNC...

Mr. McAULIFFE: Right. Mm-hmm.

SCHIEFFER: ...and when Michigan wanted to move their primaries up...

Mr. McAULIFFE: Yeah.

SCHIEFFER: ...you said, 'Sorry, boys, the rules are the rules.'

Mr. McAULIFFE: Yeah. That's right.

SCHIEFFER: 'You can't do that, and if you do that you're going to be penalized.'

Mr. McAULIFFE: Yeah.

SCHIEFFER: So the rules were the rules then, but you're now saying the rules are not really the rules.

Mr. McAULIFFE: No, the rule is 50 percent. You have the right to take away 50 percent. And I said that to Carl Levin. The DNC this time around took away 100 percent of the delegates; the rules are 50 percent. So that was our argument all along. Why did you go punitively against Florida and Michigan? If you'd taken 50 percent, we wouldn't be having this argument today. The Republicans took away 50 percent; it wasn't an issue.

SCHIEFFER: You wouldn't be having this argument if you were not campaign chairman for Hillary Clinton.

Mr. McAULIFFE: Well...

SCHIEFFER: That would be another way to put that, is that not the case?

Mr. McAULIFFE: Well, listen, I just say let the rules and bylaws meet on--but one thing you got to understand, Bob, we--Florida and Michigan are critical to our success in the fall. We have to win these states. Today Hillary Clinton, as you know, wins Florida over Senator McCain by nine, 10 points. Senator Obama today loses by 10 points. Now, the general election's not today, but our point is Hillary Clinton wins Florida, Ohio. Today she's up in Missouri against Senator McCain. Very important states for us in the general election. Let's let all the voters go, let's let them vote. It's basically tied in the popular vote. We will be within 100 delegates at the end of this process. But these seven million people ought to vote and have their voices heard.

SCHIEFFER: Let me just go back to the original question, when I said...

Mr. McAULIFFE: Mm-hmm.

SCHIEFFER: ...that she is now picturing herself as the candidate of hard-working white people.

Mr. McAULIFFE: Yes.

SCHIEFFER: Is that what she meant to say?

Mr. McAULIFFE: What she was paraphrased was an Associated Press article, as you know. But, no, listen, she has reached out from the beginning of this campaign. We've received 70-plus percent of the Latino vote in this country. She is--her message has reached out to everybody. Senator Obama has won 92 percent of the African-American vote, proudly so. They're proud that Senator Obama is running. People have put together different coalitions, and her point is, 'I have an ability to go out. I've won Ohio, obviously, a lot of the blue-collar working folks'--working-class folks, have gone out and supported her, if you look at the exit data. But I hate the discussion of race or gender. I think we ought to keep this to the issues. And what...

SCHIEFFER: But do you think she actually meant to say it that way? Because it seemed to be saying that--well, she said "hard-working white people." That wasn't the phrase--"hard-working white people" wasn't in the Associated Press story--was she somehow saying that black people are not hard-working...

Mr. McAULIFFE: No, absolutely--no.

SCHIEFFER: ...or that--or that white people are not going to vote for Barack Obama?

Mr. McAULIFFE: No. Absolutely not. And if Barack Obama happens to be the nominee, we will work--everybody will work very hard. We will be a unified party. She has received--16.6 million people have voted for her. He's received 16.7. This is a very close race. And we need to get everybody together at the end. And I disagree with a lot of these Democrats today that are saying we won't be unified. We will be very unified. Bill Clinton didn't win the nomination till June of 1992. We've got a long way to go. George Bush has been the greatest unifying force in the history of the Democratic Party. He has brought us all together. We will be together. We're almost done. Bob, we have been in this race for 17 months. We only have three weeks to go, so let's not alienate--let's keep going with our message, and talk about the issues.

SCHIEFFER: Do you think it will go on into the convention? Is that what you're saying here?

Mr. McAULIFFE: I don't. I never have. I believe May 31st, there was--I do believe they'll resolve Michigan and Florida, because they know they have to be included. June 3rd is the last voting day, and I've said this for awhile. I think soon after that, with Michigan and Florida resolved, I think the superdelegates will move, and I think they'll move very quickly. They want to be part of the process.

SCHIEFFER: Well, right now they seem to be moving to Barack Obama. This morning, Mr. Axelrod, who's her--Obama's campaign chairman...

Mr. McAULIFFE: Mm-hmm.

SCHIEFFER: ...said there will be more next week, and you'll continue every day to see more superdelegates going to Barack Obama.

Mr. McAULIFFE: And we--you know, we announced a couple in the last two days. We'll continue to announce them. They'll continue announce them. I think most of the superdelegates will wait till the end, till everybody's voted. They want everybody to be voting in this process. And then, at that point, I think, you know, who's going to make the decision, I believe will be ahead in the popular vote, will be within 100 on the delegates, and then who is the best to win the general election? And I think everybody's just sort of staying back. You heard Senator Edwards today, you know. This is the reason why I think Vice President Gore is--they understand we're at a fragile time in our party. Let's let the process finish, then people will come together. We will unify, but people need to be very careful right now not to alienate--I tell people, 'Don't tell Hillary she ought to get out of this race. There's no reason she should. And don't--clearly, don't alienate her 16.6 million people who have come out and are passionate about her candidacy.'

SCHIEFFER: Terry McAuliffe.

Mr. McAULIFFE: Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: The man who says what he believes.

Mr. McAULIFFE: You bet, you bet.

SCHIEFFER: We'll see what happens.

Mr. McAULIFFE: Thank you, sir.

SCHIEFFER: Thank you. See you.

Back with Jim VandeHei in just a minute for a little analysis.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And time now for our campaign quick check. Jim VandeHei, the executive editor of Politico, joins us this morning.

Jim, good to see you.

Mr. JIM VandeHEI (Executive Editor, Politico): Great to be here.

SCHIEFFER: Well, Terry McAuliffe says it's doable. Do you think it's doable?

Mr. VandeHEI: Oh, no. I mean, she's in it to--she's in it because the only way that she has a chance of winning it. But if you talk to anybody in the Clinton camp, they know they need a miracle. They need a scandal, they need an imponderable. They know they can't just win it by collecting enough popular votes and counting in Puerto Rico. But as long as she stays in there, anything can happen. And this is a family that has had a political career that's been built upon

sort of defying expectations and coming back when people thought it was not possible to come back.

SCHIEFFER: Well, what does she get out of this?

Mr. VandeHEI: I think just being in it. Like, who knows? Politics is completely unpredictable. And as long as she's in it for another six weeks or four weeks or whatever it'll be, she has a chance. And she just wants that chance. This campaign's been living on a prayer for months. Anybody inside the Clinton camp would tell you they never thought they had better than a 10 percent chance of winning over the last couple of months. Now they'd probably put it at about 1 percent, because they need something to happen. You know, what they'll do is they'll try to run up huge victories in West Virginia and Kentucky and be able to say, 'Listen, we are doing so well with working-class whites,' which you were talking about, which I think is a valid point, the idea that--maybe she didn't choose her words carefully, but it is a very important point, that he's going to go into the general election with huge problems with a big chunk of an important part of the electorate, which is working-class whites. They'll continue to pound that. They'll probably do it much more carefully, much more cautiously than they have before, but they want to make that point.

SCHIEFFER: Do you think that there's any chance--and I guess nobody knows but Barack Obama, and we're now told that his wife has already vetoed the idea...

Mr. VandeHEI: Right.

SCHIEFFER: ...or at least that's what Robert Novak reports in his column--any chance that he will put her on this ticket, Jim?

Mr. VandeHEI: Well, there's certainly a chance. I don't think it will happen. The reasons, I think, are pretty obvious. He doesn't want to carry sort of the Clinton baggage, he wants to be able to say he's a different kind of candidate, and it would send a powerful symbol if he actually had somebody that wasn't a Clinton on the ticket. I don't think he much cares for the Clintons right now. That will probably change when tempers calm down after the campaign. But I think he'll try to get somebody who can help him pick up a state that might be tough to win, and somebody that he feels really sends a powerful message to the electorate that, 'You know what? I am somebody different. I'm really trying to turn the page in politics.'

SCHIEFFER: Who would--who would fit the bill for him as a vice president? Because I think that no matter who gets the nomination, and I think it's just as important for John McCain--I think--I think running mates will play a role this time, maybe more so than any time in the past.

Mr. VandeHEI: Certainly, and I think that Republicans...

SCHIEFFER: Who would--who would help Barack Obama the most, do you think?

Mr. VandeHEI: Well, I think he's going to look at states that he could help potentially win that he wouldn't--might not otherwise win, maybe go with Sam Nunn in Georgia, or go with one of--one of the moderate Democrats in Virginia, a state that Democrats are very, very optimistic about--Tim Kaine, the governor; Mark Warner, who's going to run for Senate. I mean, there's so many

Democrats that are doing very well in Virginia, which is a state that's long gone Republican. I think he'll go down that route and he'll try to find somebody who can bring in one of those states into the fold.

SCHIEFFER: Bring us up to date on what's happening with McCain. There's so much attention, I think, focused on this Democratic race that we tend not to pay that much attention to John McCain's race. How's he doing?

Mr. VandeHEI: Right. Well, I think that he's taken this time to try to put together a campaign team and a campaign organization. But let's be real, the the Republican brand is so damaged right now. If you look at the polls, they're getting crushed in a way that they never have before. People don't pay attention to House seats, but when you're losing seats that have been in the Republican fold for decades--this happened in Illinois, it happened in Louisiana and there's polling suggesting it could happen in Mississippi, in one of the most conservative House seats in one of the most conservative states--that's terrible news. The number of people who are telling pollsters that they are Republicans is way down. George Bush's unpopularity is way up. So he's going to somehow have to sand off that R next to his name and say, 'You know what? I am a different kind of Republican.' That's hard when you're so tethered to the Bush brand on the war and the economy.

The trick for him is to play up that maverick part of his record, which I think is pretty legitimate, but he's also a very conservative guy, and he's got to figure out a way to do that balancing act because every time he lurches to the middle, conservatives who already don't like him could turn on him.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, Jim VandeHei, thanks so much for...

Mr. VandeHEI: Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: ...your insights this morning.

We'll be back with a final word on Mother's Day in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, it is Mother's Day. If I ask you to remember something your mother told you, what's the first thing to come to your mind? Here's what I would remember: "It's better to get to the airport too early than too late." She must have said it a thousand times, but she never missed a flight, as far as I know, and never kept anyone waiting.

"You'll do better with a smile on your face and a shine on your shoes," which my mother believed were the first steps to any successful transaction. "What do you mean, he was bigger than you are?" An excuse we learned early on not to make. "You've been sick long enough, it's time to get up and go to school." She believed all sickness ran its course in three days; after that, it was back to class. "I didn't raise you up to get you out of jail." No explanation required on that one.

My mother hated liars and thieves, was suspicious of rich people, preachers, every girl I ever brought home and was always on guard against mini warehouses, which she was convinced someone was always trying to build in her neighborhood to drive down her property values. Her rules were simple. If you obeyed them, she took your side in any argument and against any foe. If you didn't, you got whopped, severely whopped. That philosophy probably wouldn't pass muster today, but her kids turned out all right and not a day passes that I don't think of her and what she taught us. I've even started to worry about mini warehouses.

Happy Mother's Day. We'll see you next week right here on FACE THE NATION.

