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

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

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**GUESTS: Governor BOBBY JINDAL
Republican Louisiana**

**Mr. NEWT GINGRICH
Former House Speaker**

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

MODERATOR/PANELIST: Mr. Bob Chip Reid – CBS News

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**FACE THE NATION - CBS NEWS
(202)-457-4481**

CHIP REID, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, who should McCain pick for vice president and how does he beat Senator Barack Obama?

What does Senator McCain need to balance his ticket: youth, oratorical skill, management experience? The Republican governor of Louisiana Bobby Jindal has all those qualities. Does he want to be the vice presidential nominee? We'll ask him.

Then we'll turn to the race between Senator Obama and Senator McCain and talk with Republican analyst and former House speaker Newt Gingrich.

We'll talk with Jim VandeHei of Politico about the rest of the week's political news, and we'll have a final word from Bob Schieffer on Tim Russert.

But first, how do the Republicans beat Senator Barack Obama, on FACE THE NATION.

Announcer: FACE THE NATION, with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer. And now, from Washington, substituting for Bob Schieffer, CBS News Capitol Hill correspondent Chip Reid.

REID: Welcome again to the broadcast. Bob Schieffer is off this morning.

I'd like to begin today with a few words about Tim Russert, host of NBC's "Meet the Press," who died on Friday at the age of 58. I spent 11 years at NBC, and for most of that time Tim was my boss. He was one of the best bosses anyone could ever hope for. His passion for news and especially politics was infectious, and I caught the bug. But he was also passionate about his family. And on this Father's Day we at FACE THE NATION send our condolences to Tim's father, Big Russ; his son, Luke; and his wife, Maureen. We'd also like to extend our heartfelt sympathies to our good friends and colleagues at "Meet the Press."

Now we turn to our topic today. Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal joins us from Baton Rouge.

Good morning, Governor.

Governor BOBBY JINDAL (Republican, Louisiana): Good morning.

REID: Thank you for being here. Now, let me start off with kind of a "who are you" question. You're 37 years on--old, you have literally burst onto the scene recently. Rush Limbaugh says you're the next Ronald Reagan. Other Republicans say you are the future of the Republican Party. Why all this adoration? Why are Republicans so enamored with you at such a young age?

Gov. JINDAL: Well, that's all very flattering, but we're very focused on our job here in Louisiana. We've been here about five months. We've cut six taxes, our largest income tax cut in our state's history; reformed our ethics code so now we've got some of the toughest ethics laws in the country; we're recruiting businesses, Fortune 1,000 companies moved here. So we're really focused on turning Louisiana around.

My message to Republicans and conservatives is that we lost the majority in 2006 because we started--the Republican Party started defending corruption and spending and other things they would have rightfully condemned in the other party. So we're focused on turning our state around, and I'm certainly flattered by the praise that we're getting. Hopefully it'll draw people's attention to the state of Louisiana.

REID: Now, I know you've been asked this question many times, the running mate question about John McCain. And you have said you love your job, you've got a lot of work to do, you don't think McCain's going to ask you, anyway. But what if he does? What if he decides that you're the person he needs? Would you turn it down?

Gov. JINDAL: Well, you know, again, the speculation is flattering. I've talked to the senator several times, we've never talked about the topic. The reality is I've got the job that I want. This is an historic time for my state not only because of Katrina and Rita, those awful hurricanes in 2005, but for many reasons, like the energy, economy and other opportunities. We've got the chance to make once in a lifetime changes and reforms in our state. I want to be a part of doing that. I told the people of Louisiana this is an historic time for my state, and I want to be part of turning Louisiana around. I'm certainly supporting Senator McCain, will do whatever I can to help him get elected, but I'm focused on being the governor of Louisiana.

REID: Some Republicans have called you the Republican Obama. You're a gifted orator, Ivy League, you're young, you're a reformer, Rhodes Scholar. Even Obama wasn't a Rhodes Scholar. Do you like the comparison? I know you've said you don't like identity politics. Do you find it offensive in any way?

Gov. JINDAL: Well, a couple of things. One, I think Senator Obama is an incredibly gifted speaker. I don't think I should be included in that same short list, and I mean that as a sincere compliment. I don't agree with all of his ideas, but I think he brings an earnestness, I think he's genuine. I think he speaks better than any elected official I've heard in several, several years, maybe going back to President Reagan.

When it comes to identity politics, the reality is a lot of people made a lot of the fact that we had a--the first female candidate get this far, an African-American candidate get his party's nomination. The reality is I think that says two things. One, this is a great country. It doesn't matter what your last name is, doesn't matter when your family came here. There's no limit on what you can do if you work hard, get an education. But I don't think the voters, the American voters and the American people elect somebody because of their background or their name or their gender or their race. I think they elect the person they think is most qualified, that will do the best job for them, that shares their values, that will move our country forward. So I think it makes for great speculation, but the reality is I don't think that's what motivates voters. I think that's one of the great things about America. We don't vote by race or by gender, we vote based on the best candidate.

REID: Well, in theory. But there are a lot of people who believe Obama's race will be an issue in this campaign, for good or for bad. Do you agree that it will be an issue of some sort with some people?

Gov. JINDAL: I don't. I think it'll be a topic that'll be speculated and talked and written about quite a bit. But people tried to make my family's background an issue in my election. The reality is that's not what voters care about. Let's give the American voters more credit. They're worried about rising energy prices, they're worried about overseas threats, they're worried about the cost of health care, they're worried about the economy, the jump in the unemployment rate. There are many, many things that worry about--they worry about. You know, a candidate's background, it's interesting, it may make you take a second look, but you really are looking for who's the most qualified, whose values and whose opinions, whose policies you agree with. This is an important election for our country. The presidency of the United States is a very important job. I think people are going to vote for the person they think is the best qualified.

REID: You have said the Republican Party has, quote, "Lost its way." Why do you believe John McCain--how have they lost their way, and why do you believe John McCain's the guy to bring them out of the woods?

Gov. JINDAL: Well, you look at when the Republican Party first got the majorities in Congress in the '90s, when many governors, many state houses. The reason was the party stood against wasteful spending, against corruption. It was a party of ideas like welfare reform, stood for conservative principles. The problem was the party went to Washington to change Washington, and instead became captured by Washington; all of a sudden started defending the bridge to nowhere: earmarks, wasteful spending, things they would have rightfully condemned if the other party had proposed it. So I think the party got off track. I think the way that we start winning elections again is by being conservative, by sticking to our principles and not condoning. It's not enough to say you want power for the sake of having power, it's not enough to criticize the other side to win an election. People don't want to vote for the least bad alternative.

The reason I'm supporting Senator McCain--we've not always agreed on every policy issue, but now we've got a choice in two candidates. I think Senator McCain's policies--I think he's more likely to cut our taxes, more likely to defend our interests overseas effectively. I think he's more likely to keep government out of health care. He's got a long record of opposing earmarks and wasteful spending. The good news is you've got two candidates that are--that are good, decent people that are, I think, patriotic, smart people. I think they've got different views what the government should be doing. I think the American people can go in November and vote for one without voting against the other. I personally think we're a center conservative country. I think Senator McCain's views are more consistent with a majority of American voters. But the good news is voters don't have to go to the voting booth voting against somebody in this election.

REID: Let me make a sharp turn here to a different issue, an issue that has raised some controversy. Now, you were a biology major in college. I think you had a double major. But you were a biology major, and you support the teaching of intelligent design in schools. Do you have doubts about the theory of evolution?

Gov. JINDAL: A couple of things. One, I don't think this is something the federal or state government should be imposing its views on local school districts. You know, as a conservative I think government that's closest to the people governs best. I think local school boards should be in a position of deciding the curricula and also deciding what students should be learning. Secondly, I don't think students learn by us withholding information from them. Some want only

to teach intelligent design, some only want to teach evolution. I think both views are wrong, as a parent.

REID: But how about you personally? Where do you stand personally on the issue?

Gov. JINDAL: As a parent, when my kids go to schools, when they go to public schools, I want them to be presented with the best thinking. I want them to be able to make decisions for themselves. I want them to see the best data. I personally think that the life, human life and the world we live in wasn't created accidentally. I do think that there's a creator. I'm a Christian. I do think that God played a role in creating not only earth, but mankind. Now, the way that he did it, I'd certainly want my kids to be exposed to the very best science. I don't want them to be--I don't want any facts or theories or explanations to be withheld from them because of political correctness. The way we're going to have smart, intelligent kids is exposing them to the very best science and let them not only decide, but also let them contribute to that body of knowledge. That's what makes the scientific process so exciting. You get to go there and find facts and data and test what's come before you and challenge those theories.

REID: OK. Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal, described in Republican circles as a Republican superstar, one of the Republicans of the future. Thank you very much, Governor, for joining us.

Gov. JINDAL: Thank you, and happy Father's Day.

REID: And to you, too. We'll be back in just one minute.

(Announcements)

REID: With us now, former House speaker Newt Gingrich.

Thank you very much for joining us, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. NEWT GINGRICH (Former House Speaker): Glad to be here.

REID: We were just chatting about Tim Russert, and you said you wanted to just say a word or two. You certainly were on his show plenty of times.

Mr. GINGRICH: Well, you know, we gone over many times. And I brought Calista's parents over one time, and her father Ollie bonded with Tim almost like Big Russ. I mean, there was an amazing ability to reach out to people. And I just think, particularly on this Father's Day, that the loss to that family is great, and I would hope that every American would take a moment to include them in their prayers, because he was so close to his dad and so close to his son, that I think this particular Father's Day they could use our thoughts and our prayers.

REID: Very kind of you.

Let's move on to the topic of the day. Well, let's start with Bobby Jindal. You just heard him and you obviously were impressed by him. A lot of Republicans are...

Mr. GINGRICH: Yeah.

REID: ...incredibly impressed by him. Thirty-seven years old. Would you recommend to John McCain that he pick him as his vice presidential candidate?

Mr. GINGRICH: Absolutely. I think--I think Governor Jindal would be far and away the best candidate for vice president in the country. I think he is a future presidential candidate. I think he has enormous capacity to keep growing. He was--at 24, was state Medicaid director in Louisiana. He then headed up the Breaux-Thomas commission on reforming Medicare. He then became an assistant secretary of Health and Human Services in the Bush administration. He then went back home, ran for governor and lost. Won a Congressional seat, came to Washington for two terms. Then became the first person in Louisiana history to win the governorship without a runoff, defeating 11 people with a majority, and has since been just spectacular. The--Louisiana's a state that had no tradition of ethics reform. He drove through the toughest ethics legislation in the country. As he said, he's now driven through six tax cuts. He's already had a major corporation announce they were moving their corporate headquarters to Baton Rouge. He just is an all-around talented human being.

REID: But here's just one problem, that McCain has run largely on his ability to step in and be commander-in-chief on day one.

Mr. GINGRICH: Right.

REID: Bobby Jindal doesn't have that. Do you think McCain will pick him, or is that a real problem?

Mr. GINGRICH: Look, Bobby Jindal, at 37, is fully as prepared to be commander in chief as Senator Obama. I mean, they--you could argue that in fact, Jindal's experience in the executive branch and the legislative branch, is greater than Senator Obama's experience. So it strikes me it's going to be very hard to explain that Jindal, as a governor who has served as an assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, has served as a Congressional staffer, has served as a Congressman, is not qualified, but Senator Obama is qualified. I mean, they can't work both ways.

REID: And you believe Senator Obama is qualified.

Mr. GINGRICH: I think in the...

REID: He has the experience.

Mr. GINGRICH: Look, in the American tradition, Abraham Lincoln served one term in Congress. I think it's a fundamental mistake to focus on whether or not he is qualified to be president, and a powerful question of what kind of president he would be.

REID: But that is largely what McCain and his people are focusing on now. It's inexperience, inexperience, inexperience.

Mr. GINGRICH: It's just a mistake.

REID: They just keep hammering away.

Mr. GINGRICH: It won't work. It's a mistake. It is...

REID: It is a mistake.

Mr. GINGRICH: This country is not going to reject Senator Obama on inexperience. The country may reject Senator Obama because of his relationship to Reverend Wright and his relationship to the hard left, to William Ayers, and because his policies include tax increases and because there's some big decisions coming on energy, on education, on the court. And Senator Obama may turn out to represent a position so far to the left the country won't tolerate it. But if the country ends up not electing Senator Obama, it'll be on large principled decisions, not on the--I mean, I think both campaigns the last two weeks have been totally off their stride.

REID: Right.

Mr. GINGRICH: Both of them have been in kind of a na-na-na-na focus.

REID: Well, along those lines, you said in a recent column in Human Events, you said, "The Republican brand has been so badly damaged that if Republicans try to run an anti-Obama, anti-Reverend Wright campaign, they are simply going to fail." Are they going down that path now?

Mr. GINGRICH: Well, I think there's a--there's a distinction. In the House and Senate, for the first time I think you see real movement towards positives. I mean, Congresswoman Westmoreland just introduced a petition bill in the House that mirrors what we're doing at American Solutions with "Drill Here. Drill Now. Pay Less." which has gotten some 760,000 signatures in less than a month. And I think you're beginning to see a real move towards an issue-oriented campaign in the House and Senate. There's going to be a huge issue coming up in the House and Senate, because 1100 young African-American students are about to have their scholarships stolen by the Union in a--in a--in a shameful effort to sacrifice these children on the altar of Union bosses. And Senator Obama and Senator McCain ought to be put on the--on the hot seat. Will Senator Obama step in to help these children at the expense of his Union allies, or does Senator Obama agree that these children should be forced into bad schools with bad situations so the Union is taken care of?

REID: War or economy, what's going to be the bigger issue in the fall? Or is there something else?

Mr. GINGRICH: Well, I think--I think they're interlocked. I think the reason the American people worry so much about energy is partly the economy, partly the personal impact of 4 and \$5 gasoline. And partly, as we found in a poll at American Solutions a year ago, 78 percent of the country said it was dangerous to rely on foreign dictatorships for oil. And I think they see that both as a national security issue, as a--as an economic issue. On the other hand, I will say, the recent Supreme Court decision to turn over to a local district judge decisions of national security and life and death that should be made by the president and the Congress is the most extraordinarily arrogant and destructive decision the Supreme Court has made in its history.

REID: In its history.

Mr. GINGRICH: In its history. Worse than Dred Scott, worse than--because--for this following reason: The court has now knowingly stepped in--and this morning's newspapers say smugglers had actually gotten the design of a nuclear weapon, that we now have the evidence that people out there had a nuclear weapon design. And this court is saying that any random district judge, based on whatever their personal caprice is, whatever their personal ideological bias, can intervene with a terrorist in such a way--and this is something that the Italians will tell you about fighting the mafia.

REID: Well, but here's my question.

Mr. GINGRICH: Go ahead.

REID: Why won't the inexperience argument work against Obama, then? If you're talking about all these dangers out there in foreign policy, with nuclear weapons and--why can't the McCain successfully argue that Barama--Obama is just not ready for that job?

Mr. GINGRICH: My judgment, as somebody who's studied politics for a long time, is because it won't work in the end. Obama's a very articulate, very intelligent Harvard Law graduate, you know, who is extraordinarily smart, and he is not going to come across in a debate like some guy who's dopey. I mean, he's going to come across as fully prepared. He knows how to study all this stuff. He has good military advisers. The problem with Obama is he's wrong. It's not that he's inexperienced, it's that his policies are wrong. He applauded this court decision. This court decision is a disaster which could cost us a city. And the debate ought to be over whether or not you're prepared to risk losing an American city on behalf of five lawyers--it was a five-to-four decision, and five lawyers have decided that the Supreme Court counts more than the Congress and the president combined in national security. That has never been true in American history. That ought to be a principled argument between McCain and Obama, about whether or not you're prepared to allow any random nutcase district judge who has no knowledge of national security to set the rules for terrorists.

REID: Briefly, there are predictions out there that the House could lose double-digit seats this fall, and the Senate could lose anywhere from three to seven. You think?

Mr. GINGRICH: Look, if we--if we continue to grow the "Drill Here. Drill Now. Pay Less." petitions...

REID: Energy's that important in this campaign?

Mr. GINGRICH: At 4 and \$5 a gallon, if you have a more production, lower cost Republican Party running against a cripple the economy, hit your pocketbook Democratic Party, this election will change radically in September and October.

REID: Let me ask you real quickly one more. Is Obama better off picking Hillary Clinton for vice president, or somebody else?

Mr. GINGRICH: I suspect he almost has to pick somebody else. I think--I don't think you can run as the new kid on the block, the breath of reform, the we can change, and then turn and say,

`Actually, I never meant it, I'm just a traditional politician. Let me now, you know, pick somebody who personifies Washington for the last 15 years.'

REID: All right. Great. Thank you.

Mr. GINGRICH: Good to be here.

REID: On that word, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, thank you very much for joining us. We'll be back in just a moment.

(Announcements)

REID: Joining us now with a campaign quick check, Jim VandeHei, executive editor of Politico.

Thank you for joining us, Jim.

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

REID: The state of the race. Let me give you an open-ended question here. Where do you think things stand right now between McCain and Obama?

Mr. VANDEHEI: I think you get into this general election with Obama, by virtually every measure, having dominance, I think, early on; whether it's money, organization, issues, political environment. McCain is in a huge hole, that's why Republicans are in such a panic. They know that they have virtually nothing on their side right now and that they really need McCain to overcome all these obstacles, both structural and historical and environmental.

REID: Is he making progress on that? He had a lot of time with--as the Democrats fought it out and people thought he was going to be able to do a lot to give himself a leg up. Did he do it?

Mr. VANDEHEI: The Republicans I talk to think he did not. He did not use that time wisely. In fact, if you looked at the campaign now, you'd think...

REID: And Newt Gingrich just said he doesn't think they're doing a good job.

Mr. VANDEHEI: Absolutely. You would think that Obama was the one who had two months to prepare for this. He actually seems to have a better national organization, has a better fundraising network when you watch them sort of head-to-head talk about issues.

REID: In a way, maybe you're better off to go through a long primary, because...

Mr. VANDEHEI: Right.

REID: ...it forces you to be at your best, and...

Mr. VANDEHEI: There's no doubt Obama's a significantly better candidate today than he was six months ago. He's had to really think through the issues. And when you see him talking about the economy in particular right now, he's often crisper and he has sort of better job--he does a

better job of explaining the intellectual underpinnings of his policies right now than McCain does. He's going to have to step up on that because, yes, McCain's very strong on foreign policy, national security. But people care a lot right now about health care and those gas prices, and he's going to have to be able to go toe-to-toe with Obama on those issues.

REID: VP. Where do you think things stand right now on both sides? Today on Fox, Karl Rove said he thought Romney should be the guy on the Republican side and Biden on the Democratic side. Do those make sense? Or about Bobby Jindal, who Newt Gingrich just endorsed?

Mr. VANDEHEI: Right. I'm pretty surprised. A lot of people I talk to, smart Republicans, seem to think that Romney might be the front-runner for that pick. I'm surprised, because...

REID: Even though they absolutely despised each other?

Mr. VANDEHEI: I'm surprised, because they didn't get--despised each other. I mean, really did, especially at the staff level; but I think at a personal level did not like each other at all in the general election. A lot of Republicans think Romney can raise a tremendous amount of money and has already been vetted and can speak pretty sharply on the economy, and that those three things might overcome any animosity that's between the two candidates.

The Jindal pick would be very interesting for this reason: If you look at the House, Senate and gubernatorial races this year, there is not an African-American candidate who has a chance of winning. They have very few minority candidates and--period, that can win. The Republican Party has to figure out a way to broaden its appeal. They have to be able to bring African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Indian-Americans into the camp. And maybe by getting somebody like Jindal, that would allow them to start to view that process. And Newt Gingrich is one who talks a lot about this. They have to figure out a way to expand the Republican Party. They're not doing that right now.

REID: How about on the Democratic side with Rove suggesting Biden? Other people have said Jim Webb. I think the theme here is that Barack Obama needs some foreign policy backup here.

Mr. VANDEHEI: I think it is, but I also think we tend to, like, really try to game this out little too much. I think he's gong to take his time. I don't think it's going to be Hillary Clinton at all. This is a campaign that has run...

REID: Yeah. You said earlier you think zero chance.

Mr. VANDEHEI: I think zero chance, because this is a campaign that's been very organized, very methodical and has not taken big risks. And I think putting Hillary Clinton on the ticket, especially when you have Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton together, could be risky. I think he's going to try to find somebody who's a safe pick, who he feels very comfortable with at a very personal level. And, you know, I think there's a bunch of people on that list. Certainly Joe Biden is one a lot of people are talking about now, Jim Webb. But I think we're going to go through a lot of names. Al Gore is someone that we're hearing a lot of people talk about right now.

REID: Right.

Mr. VANDEHEI: If he were to take the job, which I don't think he would take the job just because of the gravitas he would bring.

REID: Really quickly, McCain is making a big play for women voter--women supporters of Hillary Clinton. As somebody said to me, 'They're not going to vote for McCain for three reasons: Roe vs. Wade.'

Mr. VANDEHEI: Right.

REID: And there are a lot of other reasons. Do you believe that women who support Hillary Clinton will go to McCain rather than Obama?

Mr. VANDEHEI: It's hard to see why. I mean, I think there are certainly a segment of women voters who--and male voters, for that matter--who are in either rural areas, swing states who are--feel very comfortable with McCain on national security issues. I don't think it's--I don't think it has anything really to do with the animosity of the campaign season. animosity of the campaign season. I think the city tends to hyperventilate about tensions in the campaign.

REID: Right.

Mr. VANDEHEI: It's clear, like, Hillary Clinton and Obama have already virtually put that stuff away. And I think it--that tracks down to voters, too.

REID: Great. Jim VandeHei of Politico, thank you very much for your insights.

Mr. VANDEHEI: Thank you.

REID: When we come back, Bob Schieffer will have a remembrance of Tim Russert.

(Announcements)

BOB SCHIEFFER reporting:

By now you know that my long-time competitor Tim Russert died on Friday. He was just 58. Tim and I butted heads for 18 years on Sunday mornings, and yet somehow along the way we also became friends.

Tim did it the old-fashioned way. He didn't need a squadron of producers and aides to get him briefed up for big interviews. He just kept up with things on a day-to-day and hour-to-hour basis and then he did his homework. In our business, you know which of your colleagues do their own work and you know which ones don't. And somehow the public has a way of figuring that out as well.

Tim was nothing fancy, no bells or whistles. He just sat them down and asked them questions. But they were always good questions. I think what made him so good was he realized that news programs are about the news, they're not about the newscasters. I think that's why he got so much news himself.

Our hearts go out to Tim's wonderful family and to his father, Big Russ, on this Father's Day. I hope that they can take some small comfort in knowing so many of us respected him professionally and admired him as a person. There won't be many Sundays when I don't think about my friend Tim Russert. This is Bob Schieffer speaking today from Paris.

