

© 2008, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.

*PLEASE CREDIT ANY QUOTES OR EXCERPTS FROM THIS CBS
TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION."*

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

Sunday, August 31, 2008

GUESTS: Former Mayor RUDY GIULIANI
Republican, New York

Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN
Independent/Democrat, Connecticut

Ms. CARLY FIORINA
McCain Adviser

Mr. DAVID BROOKS
The New York Times

MODERATOR/PANELIST: Mr. Bob Schieffer – CBS News

*This is a rush transcript provided
for the information and convenience of
the press. Accuracy is not guaranteed.
In case of doubt, please check with*

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

BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, from St. Paul, Minnesota, the Republicans take their turn.

The Democrats put on quite a show in Denver, but even their fireworks couldn't match the way John McCain lit up the Republican Party when he announced he had chosen little known Alaska governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate. Who is she, and why did he pick her? We'll ask the convention keynoter and former GOP presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani and two who were also on McCain's short list as running mates, Independent Democrat Joe Lieberman and businesswoman Carly Fiorina. David Brooks of The New York Times will be here with analysis, and I'll have a final word on why I call it the St. Paul/Minneapolis area.

But first, the McCain-Palin ticket and the Republican convention on FACE THE NATION.

Announcer: FACE THE NATION with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer. And now, from the site of the 2008 Republican National Convention, Bob Schieffer.

SCHIEFFER: And good morning again. Well, what happens here may well depend on what happens along the Gulf Coast. The White House is now telling us it is unlikely the president is going to come here because of concerns about the storm. As of now, the convention is still scheduled to start on time Sunday. That could change. The hurricane is still headed toward the southern coast, is packing 120 mile an hour winds and mandatory evacuations are under way from Alabama to east Texas. The current projections are that it will hit land tomorrow.

We're going to begin here this morning with the former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who's the convention keynoter, and Senator Joe Lieberman, the Independent Democrat from Connecticut who was one of those on the short list to be John McCain's running mate.

We're going to talk to each of you separately, gentlemen, but let me just ask both of you briefly what is going to happen here. Should this convention be postponed? Mr. Mayor:

Former Mayor RUDY GIULIANI (Convention Keynote Speaker): Well, there's no question that Senator McCain will make sure the focus is on the South and on Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, Senator McCain and Governor Palin I believe are on an airplane right now headed to Mississippi at the invitation of Governor Barber to make their own personal assessment of how the preparations are going. And I'm impressed with the preparations that are being made this time, including Mike Churtoff going down to New Orleans, making sure that all of the resources are prepositioned. This threatens to be maybe worse than Katrina. You would know that better than I do, Bob. But...

SCHIEFFER: What...

Mayor GIULIANI: So we have to be ready for anything and everything.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Well, Senator Lieberman, do you think they ought to think about postponing this or somehow dialing it down? What should they do here?

Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN (Independent, Connecticut): Yeah. Well, since I'm a Democrat visiting the Republican convention, it's probably beyond my pay grade to say and inappropriate to say. But knowing John McCain as I do, I'm sure that he will want to be respectful and focused on the crisis that may occur on the Gulf Coast. But the convention has important public business to do. I mean, this convention has to nominate the Republican ticket so that the election can go forward in a timely way. And I'm sure that Senator McCain will find a way to do that. I think a lot of the partying may be curtailed.

Incidentally, I do want to say very briefly, Bob, that I had a briefing this morning in my capacity as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee from Dave Paulson, the director of FEMA. I will simply say that we are--we are 1,000 percent better prepared today than we were before Katrina. We have the full resources of the federal government prepositioned, supplies and equipment, communications equipment, and the--and the resources of the United States military already on the scene helping to evacuate sick patients from hospitals. So we are as ready as you could possibly be. What we have to hope and pray of course is that the storm does not go beyond the capacity of the levees to protect New Orleans and the--and the rest of the Gulf Coast.

SCHIEFFER: OK. Well, Senator, we'll get back to you in a minute.

Let me come back to you, Mr. Mayor. Don't you really have to be very careful here not to appear to be--you know, Republicans are partying while this thing hits the Gulf Coast? I mean, it seems to me you're going to have to dial back a little bit on some of these things. Senator McCain himself...

Mayor GIULIANI: Oh...

SCHIEFFER: ...said the other day...

Mayor GIULIANI: Well...

SCHIEFFER: ...said we can't appear to be attending some festive occasion while there's trouble down there.

Mayor GIULIANI: No question about it, Bob. I mean, we have to make sure that the focus is on the South, on Gustav, make sure that all the resources are there, and that anything that is done with regard to the convention doesn't take anything away from that and is done in a serious way. Senator McCain has already indicated that it would be inappropriate to have celebrations, that things have to be scaled back. I think all those decisions will be made. I have no doubt John McCain will make them appropriately.

I seem to remember back in 2000, when he was going to renounce for president of the United States, I think it was at a time in which there was a situation in the Balkans that was very serious. I think he put off his announcement, even though all the preparations had been made, and...

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm.

Mayor GIULIANI: I mean, this is a man who understands emergency response, the importance of it. Remember, he was--he was quite critical of the response to Katrina. Probably as a Republican the one that was out front the most. I spoke to him a lot about this because I have some experience with emergency response.

SCHIEFFER: Yeah...(unintelligible).

Mayor GIULIANI: So I know--I know his--I know his views on it. And this is an area that he knows, and I think it's really good that he has Governor Palin with him because she's been a governor and a mayor, and you can't have better preparation for dealing with emergencies than having those two executive positions, no matter where you are in the country.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, speaking of Governor Palin, let me just play something. I'm going to play for you what Senator Obama told Steve Kroft of "60 Minutes" about why he chose Joe Biden for his running mate, during an interview that's going to be broadcast tonight on "60 Minutes." Just take a listen to this.

Senator BARACK OBAMA: (From "60 Minutes") Let me tell you the reason I picked Joe Biden. Number one, he can step in and become president, and I don't think anybody has any doubt about that. Number two is that if I'm in the room making the kinds of tough decisions that the next president's going to have to make, both on domestic policy and on international policy, then I want the counsel and advice of somebody who's not going to agree with me 100 percent of the time. In fact, somebody who's independent enough that can push back and give me different perspectives and make sure that I'm catching any blind spots that I have.

SCHIEFFER: So Mr. Mayor, in all honesty now, Governor Palin has a very compelling life story, no one doubts that. But Senator McCain is not really going to be able to say about her what you just heard Senator Obama say about Senator Biden, can he?

Mayor GIULIANI: Well, I think--I think Senator Obama had to say that about Senator Biden because Senator Obama is the least experienced candidate for president in the last 100 years. I mean, he's never run a city, he's never run a state, he's never run a business, he's never administered a payroll, he's never led people in crisis. My goodness, I mean, he had to put all that emphasis on somebody helping him because he's never had a record of executive experience. And frankly, during his campaign against Hillary Clinton, the judgments that he displayed demonstrated that he doesn't have executive experience. That whole confusion about negotiating with dictators without preconditions. His three responses to Georgia, invasion--the Russian invasion of Georgia, I think it took Senator Obama three different responses to get it right after consulting with his 300 foreign policy advisers. So there's a different set of issues with Senator Obama. Nobody doubts that John McCain is ready to be commander in chief, and Governor Palin gives him a chance to do exactly the opposite of Senator Obama. Senator Obama opted for the past in his choice of a vice presidential candidate, for exactly what he's complaining about, more of the same, somebody from Washington, 30, 40 years in Washington. John McCain went with the new generation. He went with someone that's been a enormously successful mayor and governor, someone who's been a reformer, a governor who is considered one of the best in the

country and in fact is the most popular in the country. Maybe it's my own background as a mayor and a United States attorney, but this whole idea of executive experience to me would really qualify her. I mean, I think that she already has more executive experience than Biden and Obama combined.

SCHIEFFER: So you really do--you really do think that she is more qualified than Senator Obama would be? I mean, she's been the governor of a...

Mayor GIULIANI: Oh, than Senator Obama?

SCHIEFFER: ...state with very small...

Mayor GIULIANI: I do.

SCHIEFFER: ...with a very small population, the mayor of a town of 9,000 people.

Mayor GIULIANI: Sure. You know why? She had to make decisions. All Senator Obama has had to do is talk. That's all he does.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Mayor GIULIANI: She's had to make--she's vetoed--she's vetoed legislation, she's taken on--she's taken on corruption, and in her party, and won. She took on the oil companies and won. She administered a budget...

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Mayor GIULIANI: ...successfully.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Mayor GIULIANI: So this is somebody of accomplishment. Senator Biden's major accomplishment, according to Hillary Clinton...

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Mayor GIULIANI: ...was one speech. But now it's two speeches, I have to say that.

SCHIEFFER: All right. All right, well, I'm sorry, we have to stop there, Mr. Mayor.

Let's go now to Senator Lieberman.

Senator Lieberman, how do you feel about this? Do you think John McCain made a--some people are saying it was an irresponsible decision because he's put someone with not very much experience a heartbeat away from the president. Democrats are saying this now makes Senator McCain's age a legitimate issue. What do you say to that?

Sen. LIEBERMAN: No, I'd say that John McCain made a bold choice here, which makes a lot of sense, and it goes right to the heart of what's on the minds of most people in this country. They want to see change in Washington. If this is a change election, it's about changing Washington so that it works again, so that this alliance of partisan political power brokers and special interest peddlers is broken. And that's been McCain's history. He's never hesitated to take on the lobbyists or the--or the big corporations or his own party. Senator Obama has no record like that. And in Governor Palin John has found a maverick who's done exactly the same thing at the state level that he's done at the federal level. So I think what Senator McCain is saying with this choice is we're serious about shaking up the status quo in Washington to make it work for the people of our country again. I mean, metaphorically, it seemed to me--I don't know Governor Palin, but as I watched her the last couple of days, bringing her onto the ticket is a little bit like opening a door and letting some fresh Alaska air into Washington, which it needs some fresh air.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let me just ask you this, Senator. I don't know anybody that's closer than John--to John McCain than you are. Do you know how he made the decision of--this was his choice, wasn't it? I mean, this was John McCain, the old fighter pilot willing to put it on the line. When did he decide on her and how did it come down that he decided to choose her?

Sen. LIEBERMAN: Well, he--of course, this is a process that if it's talked about, Bob, should be talked about by John. But he made his own decision. He--listen, John's a man, as Rudy said, who doesn't need to sort of fill in behind him with foreign policy experience. On January 20th next year, one of two people is going to sit down at the big desk in the Oval Office. It's either going to be John McCain or Barack Obama. And obviously, in my opinion John McCain is so much more ready to lead based on a lifetime of experience. I think here he wanted to send the message, get somebody fresh, somebody really who represents the other America outside of Washington where people don't care whether you have an R or a D after your name, they just want you to get something done to help them deal with the problems they have. And Sarah Palin comes from that other America. And as a result, I think she sends a very refreshing and powerful message that the McCain-Palin ticket is really the one that will bring about change here in Washington that the American people desperately want.

SCHIEFFER: All right, Senator. I'm sorry, we have to stop there, but we do.

We'll be back in just one minute to talk to Carly Fiorina.

Thank you, Senator.

Sen. LIEBERMAN: Thanks.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And here with us now on the convention floor, Carly Fiorina, businesswoman, senior adviser to the McCain campaign.

Clearly, Ms. Fiorina, this was a bid to get some of those disaffected women who were so much for Hillary Clinton. And, you know, we--our polls show that maybe as many as 25 percent of Hillary Clinton's people, supporters, said they just couldn't vote for Barack Obama. They were

going to vote for Senator McCain. Why would they vote for this woman rather than Hillary Clinton?

Ms. CARLY FIORINA (Senior Advisor, McCain Campaign): Well, you know, I've been receiving messages from a lot of those women ever since John McCain named Sarah Palin, and they are ecstatic over this pick. They are ecstatic because this is a person of great accomplishment, this is a person who can identify with the challenges that they face as women in every conceivable way; as a mother, as a woman trying to balance her work life and her family life, not to mention her incredible track record of reform and taking on, as she said, the good old boy network. So I have heard from many women and they are truly excited by this pick.

SCHIEFFER: But here's the part that I--that I question. Hillary Clinton's supporters, I would guess, the ones who are still for Hillary Clinton, I would say that they are about as pro-abortion rights as you can be. This woman is anti-abortion rights, despite all of her compelling life story, and no one doubts that. So how would they would be willing to flip on that issue?

Ms. FIORINA: Yeah. You see, I think, frankly, the Democratic Party has done a disservice to women by trying to hold women hostage to the issue of Roe v. Wade. The truth is the most important issue to women, all the polls say this, is the economy. Women are not single issue voters. Yes, there are some women for whom the issue of reproductive rights trumps everything else. But the truth is most women are not that way. So I know lots of pro-choice women who are pro-McCain, I know pro-life women who are pro-McCain. But one of the thing that I think women and men appreciate is authenticity and consistency. And Sarah Palin, like John McCain, is a person who has lived her values. She doesn't talk about them, she lives them. And I think people recognize that character and authenticity, and they appreciate it.

SCHIEFFER: Do you think she's the most qualified woman he could've picked?

Ms. FIORINA: I think she is a terrific pick because she is, like John McCain, a real reformer. She is clearly a maverick. She has a personal sense of how difficult it is to get through life every day with a family. I think she's a wonderful pick. And I think she will not only energize our party, but I can tell you from my personal experience with the messages I'm getting from Democratic women, she is going to energize women in this country.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Carly Fiorina, thank you so much.

Ms. FIORINA: Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: We'll be back to talk with David Brooks of The New York Times in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And we're back again now at the site of the Republican National Convention. With us for a Campaign Quick Check, David Brooks, columnist of The New York Times.

Well, David, we spent the whole time here talking about a running mate. Should we be talking about something else this morning?

Mr. DAVID BROOKS (The New York Times): Well, that's why he picked her, because Obama's now ancient history, we're talking about her. And she's a mystery. None of us know how it's going to play out. You can see why McCain took her. She took on--she risked her political career to take on the special interests in her own party, she took on the oil companies. She's like McCain. McCain wants to change this campaign from change to--from left to right, he wants to make it, 'I'm going to clean out the stables.'

But then we see the risks. She has no experience, basically. People are going to be nervous about her. And what it says about John McCain, some people drive the aircraft carrier, they have a big team around them. Some people take off from the aircraft carrier, they're lone fliers. John McCain is a lone flier. This was a lone flier choice, it was risky. Do people want a risky president? So the pluses and minuses are huge in this pick, and that's why we're talking about it.

SCHIEFFER: Well, you've known John McCain a long time. And I totally agree with you on that, this is John McCain the fighter pilot.

Mr. BROOKS: Right.

SCHIEFFER: How did people around him feel about this?

Mr. BROOKS: There was nobody against her, but there was very few people for her. Lindsay Graham, a very close adviser, really wanted Joe Lieberman, who was on the show, to be it. Other people thought Tim Pawlenty, the Minnesota governor. Nobody really was pushing her. But he felt bad about being the old guy who was running against the young guy. He didn't want to run that race. And politically, they thought it'd run its course. So he wanted to change things and be the young guy, the wild guy, and so this pick was all about him and his very brief meeting with her.

SCHIEFFER: The old guy vs. the young guy. John McCain is 72 years old. Is his age now a legitimate issue? Can people say, 'Here's a man, 72 years old with a cancer in his background,' just like I have cancer in my background, 'and he has put a woman, virtually no experience'...

Mr. BROOKS: Right.

SCHIEFFER: ...'a heartbeat away from the presidency.'

Mr. BROOKS: I think it will. Among the Republican base there's huge enthusiasm on this. Among senators and Republican consultants there's nervousness. But you saw politically how the Republicans are engaging in Rudy Giuliani's answer to you. When asked about that, they go immediately on offense. You take out our number two, we take out your number one.

SCHIEFFER: So what kind of campaign are we going to see here? Won't the Democrats have to kind of change their game plan now? Because, you know, they were preparing to answer the question, or try to answer the question that John McCain was going to raise that, you know, it was his experience vs. Barack Obama's inexperience. It seems to me that's no longer the argument here.

Mr. BROOKS: Right. The core argument is going to be Republicans for reform, we're going to clean out the stables; Democrats for bread and butter, we're going to cut your taxes, middle class taxes, we're going to give you health care, we're going to give you energy. McCain is all about process, the Democrats are much more bread and butter. I sort of think that favors the Democrats a little.

SCHIEFFER: So what happens here? Is--you know, is John--I still don't get how this is going to unfold. I mean, what are going to be the issues? It seemed to me it was a pretty clear-cut campaign. You could see what--the Republicans were going to try to make this a referendum on Barack Obama's inexperience, the Democrats were going to try to make it a referendum on John McCain's--basically, his judgment.

Mr. BROOKS: Right. And the mystery...

SCHIEFFER: Does this make judgment an issue now?

Mr. BROOKS: It makes it a bit of an issue, but McCain needed to shake things up. The polls have been close, but the Republicans really didn't think it was a close election.

SCHIEFFER: Really?

Mr. BROOKS: They thought Obama had a clear advantage. The experience argument had worked to the extent it worked, but it wasn't going to work anymore. They needed to change things. McCain needed to feel like he was on a crusade. That's when he's best. He was not on a crusade when he's complaining about Obama, that young whippersnapper.

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm.

Mr. BROOKS: But now he can feel like he's on a crusade. This is a woman who risked her career. Obama has never risked his career. That's an argument he feels comfortable with, and I think that's why he needs the re-energizing that she brings. Huge, huge risk. There--I'd say there's a 30, 40 percent chance we find out something about her, she says something stupid over the next couple of weeks, it kills the campaign. So huge risk.

SCHIEFFER: So about 30 seconds left here. What are they going to do here? Will this convention have to be dialed back in some way?

Mr. BROOKS: They've got to be proactive. And I have talked to them about what they're going to try to do. When the storm hits, they've got to have concrete things we're going to do here. We're going to give to the Red Cross, we're going to organize, we're going to scale back the parties, because we've got to show competence. The country has to have some sense that Republicans can competently do something.

SCHIEFFER: They can't be seen running around wearing funny hats.

Mr. BROOKS: Republicans would never go to fancy parties.

SCHIEFFER: I see.

Mr. BROOKS: It just wouldn't happen.

SCHIEFFER: All right, David Brooks, thank you so much.

Back with a final word in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, anyone who has known me for at least an hour knows I'm from Fort Worth, Texas, which is referred to by many in the nation as the Dallas/Fort Worth area; which is why for years, whenever I mention it on TV I call it the Fort Worth/Dallas area. Few people have noticed, but one day I got a nice letter from a man who wrote and said, 'I know why you do that. I'm from St. Paul.'

As Bill Ward, one of the local newspapermen here wrote this week, St. Paul would kill to get the kind of respect that even Rodney Dangerfield got. At least people knew who he was. Too many people don't know that St. Paul exists. Well, I know the feeling. I once wrote a song that went like this: Dallas, Dallas, how we love you, but why's our airport DFW? Move that D, shift that letter, FWD sounds so much better. The Dallas DJs didn't play it much, but they loved it in Fort Worth.

So here's what we're going to do to turn it around for St. Paul. First, you need a theme song. How about this: Minneapolis, Minneapolis, we think you are simply fabulous. But if you want to have a ball, just drop in on old St. Paul. So St. Paulers, if you'll finish those lyrics, e-mail them to me at CBS News, and I'll read the best ones next week on FACE THE NATION, when our guest will be John McCain.

In the meantime, this is Bob Schieffer of Fort Worth saying so long from St. Paul, where we'll be all week covering the Republican National Convention. See you.

