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

CBS News

# FACE THE NATION

Sunday, December 21, 2008

**GUESTS:**    **Mr. JOEL KLEIN**  
New York City School Chancellor

**Representative GARY ACKERMAN**  
Democrat, New York

**Ms. GERALDINE FERRARO**  
Former Vice Presidential Candidate

**Representative THOMAS REYNOLDS**  
(Republican, New York)

**Representative PETER KING**  
(Republican, New York)

**Mr. DOMINIC CARTER**  
Political Anchor, NY1

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

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BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, Caroline Kennedy. Should she be New York's next senator? Is she the most qualified candidate? Can she campaign statewide, and why does she want the job after years of asking for privacy? It is the talk of the political world. We'll talk with Joel Klein, one of her best friends and New York City school chancellor; Republican congressmen Tom Reynolds and Peter King; Democratic congressman Gary Ackerman and former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro. Then we'll get analysis from Dominic Carter, political anchor for New York 1. I'll have a final word on face time. But first, the New York senate seat and Caroline Kennedy 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: Good morning again. Well, we have a full house this morning, but not as full as we had hoped. Kerry Kennedy, who is Caroline Kennedy's cousin, was supposed to start off our broadcast this morning, but our television remote truck ran off the road and into a snowbank and a ditch outside of her home in Mount Kisco this morning. A bad storm up there. So Kerry Kennedy will be watching this morning, but she will not be on the broadcast with us.

So we will start this morning with Joel Klein, who is the chancellor of the New York school system who has gotten a lot of acclaim around the country for what he's done with New York schools. He's a very close friend of Caroline Kennedy.

So I would just ask you to start here, Mr. Klein, give us the best case for why this person who's never taken part in politics, who's never wanted a public life and who in fact who has gone to great lengths to ask the press and others to respect her privacy, why all of a sudden should she be the person most qualified to become New York's next senator?

Mr. JOEL KLEIN (New York City School Chancellor): Well, I think she did right by her family and certainly raised her kids, and is now at a point in her life where she can serve this state and be a part of the Senate at a time when, frankly, we're going to need her intelligence, her integrity and her ability to bring people together to do what's right for the state of New York and for the country. I've known Caroline for a long time. She's a very bright, very committed woman, and I think this is the right time. The work she did for President-elect Obama I think put her on the national stage, led her to get involved in issues that she cares deeply about, and I think that's critical as we go forward. I also think she'll have the relationships on Capitol Hill to be able to get the work done. I think in her own quiet but very effective way she's going to be able to bring new ideas at a time when this country needs them. And when you think about the message, Bob, of the last election, the message was we want a different kind of politics in Washington, DC. The old partisan ways are not serving the people, and I think the people are looking for leadership and the kind of values that I think Caroline will reflect.

SCHIEFFER: We have to point out here, she's not running for this. The New York governor, Governor Paterson, is going to make this appointment. But whoever, including Caroline Kennedy if she decides to run, would have to run in 2010 to finish out Hillary Clinton's term, and then would have to run again in 2012.

Well, Gary Ackerman, a lot of the Democrats in New York, elected officials, have said that they think this is a good idea. So far you have not been one of those.

Representative GARY ACKERMAN (Democrat, New York): Well, I don't know if it's a good idea because I'm not sure I know who she is. I mean, everyone knows who she is, but we're not sure what she is. You know, they're Kennedys, they're all--they're all boats, but is she a sailboat when we need a battleship? That remains to be seen. And the very fact that she's sequestered herself for her whole life, nobody knows what her values are. We can assume, we don't know. The second thing, which is probably as important in New York and national politics, what kind of fighter she will be. Does she have the guts and the gumption to do it? Right now she's auditioning for the job. One man is going to pick it, as you point out, Bob. But eventually she has to get into the ring, face the public. And the very fact that right now that she has handlers around her, we've not been able to see who she's been all these years--she's never written a letter to the editor expressing a view or fighting, as far as I know. They've basically Sarah Palinized her, if I can coin a phrase. They've--they're answering questions that you have to submit in writing. She's not talking to reporters as she makes this grand tour. They're kind of building a mystique and an industry around her when we need somebody to fight. She has a very famous name and she's a very attractive candidate. Those are good things in politics, but it's not an entitlement.

You know, one of the things that we have to observe is that DNA in this business can take you just so far. You know, Rembrandt was a--was a--was a great artist. His brother Murray, on the other hand, Murray Rembrandt, wouldn't paint the house.

SCHIEFFER: I must say, I didn't know about Murray. But I'm glad--I'm sure--all right.

Well, let's go--let's go to Geraldine Ferraro.

First, do you know Murray Rembrandt?

Ms. GERALDINE FERRARO (Former Vice Presidential Candidate): I really don't. No, I haven't met him. But you know, there is always time.

SCHIEFFER: Congressman Ackerman, I'm going to take his word on this historical fact here.

Congress--or Ms. Ferraro, let me just ask you this question. When we booked you, basically, to be on the broadcast last week, it was my understanding that you were neutral on all of this.

Ms. FERRARO: I am.

SCHIEFFER: But I have since learned, according to the New York Post--and I want to give you a chance to comment on this--that you are actually against Caroline getting this, and you have asked the governor in a letter to appoint one of the six female members of Congress that come from New York. Did something change here? What's going on?

Ms. FERRARO: No. The thing that happened, Bob, is when I give an interview to a fifth or sixth grader, I always make sure that they have a tape recorder on so that they get the message right. Unfortunately, I didn't do this with this young reporter. He had wanted to write a story that I was opposed to Caroline Kennedy, and I said to him, 'No, you can't say that.' What he did was he

quoted the fact that I had said--which I had done--that I had sent a letter to staff person and asked them to get the--it to the governor, but not--it wasn't last week. I sent it in November. And I saw the governor at an event November 15th here in New York at which he got up--and he was really--he was honoree for the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. And what had happened was he had gotten up and had described--after some funny remarks at the very beginning--but he had gotten into details on what the concerns are of this state right now and budget shortfalls. And he was talking about it, a good 20 to 25 minute speech on exactly what problems the state is facing.

Now, I don't know if anybody else has noticed, but we're in a financial crisis, worldwide financial crisis. To me this appointment--and it's not a race, it is an appointment by the governor--is not--it's not about an individual, it is about the state and the needs of the state.

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm.

Ms. FERRARO: And at that time, right after his comments, I wrote a letter saying that, in my view, that we could not--and by the way, this was right after Delaware had appointed someone to fill the term for two years before a special election to fill Joe Biden's seat. I had said, 'It seems to me that we need somebody down there for the good of the state, who knows the process, who doesn't have to get down there and learn the process, who can get down there and hit the ground running just like President-elect Obama will do when he gets inaugurated. He will hit the ground running. We need somebody to fight for this state.'

SCHIEFFER: Yeah.

Ms. FERRARO: It is not about an individual, it is about the state and about the needs of the state.

SCHIEFFER: So...

Ms. FERRARO: And I personally think that this whole campaign that has been going on in the last week or so is almost--it's very, very difficult.

SCHIEFFER: OK. So...

Ms. FERRARO: It's almost offensive.

SCHIEFFER: So while you're not--you're not against her, you're not necessarily for her. You just want the best person.

Ms. FERRARO: No. What I did was I said in order to get somebody to hit the ground running, I specifically said I think you should look to members of Congress. Because their biggest concern...

SCHIEFFER: I see.

Ms. FERRARO: They've been dealing with these issues for the last several months. What they have to do, their biggest concern is moving from one side of the Capitol to the other side of the Capitol.

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Ms. FERRARO: They know what's going on, they know the process, they can move. And then I did put in a little bit of a support for the six women members. I said, 'I don't know if any one of them wants it, but I think you should reach out to them and ask them.' That was it.

SCHIEFFER: OK. All right.

Well, let me go to Tom Reynolds, congressman from Buffalo who also happens to be a Republican. Caroline Kennedy came up to Buffalo last week. Does she come up there often, Congressman?

Representative THOMAS REYNOLDS (Republican, New York): No, she didn't. I think the last time was maybe campaigning for then the first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton as she was running for the Senate in 2000. And it's interesting, Buffalo is a blue collar town, and upstate--and I guess I'm the only upstater on the program. But she came in a foreign SUV, she left in a Jeep. But those are no-nos to anybody that's learning the geography of upstate New York, not to be an elected official or a candidate traveling in a foreign car. But that meeting that she did upstate in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo was not full of press announcement or fanfare. They were really private meetings with the mayors of those three cities. And when it gets is to what I've said earlier, President Barack Obama--or president-elect, has demonstrated that any person can be elected, as an American, to the presidency. And he's taking great pride in that, and he should. But we've seen the Senate become a House of Lords. And by that, when we've talked a little earlier about entitlement, we're seeing a seat warmer in Delaware, a seat seller in Illinois and we're making seat cushions in New York for kind of an aristocrat royalty of entitlement coming in here. And as was said...

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well...

Rep. REYNOLDS: ...by Gerry Ferraro, it is where New York needs a fighter. And right now, based on how the Senate's picking candidates, even Chuck Schumer, the senior senator of New York, wouldn't be eligible because he was just a Brooklyn congressman.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, I'm going to go to Peter King, your colleague in the Congress who's also a Republican from out on Long Island.

Congressman, you would actually like to run for this seat in 2010 and have made no secret about that. The fact that we're having this program this morning, that fact that she has stirred up so much comment, not--just not in New York, but across the nation--doesn't that suggest she probably would be the strongest, the toughest candidate for you to run against if you do in fact run?

Representative PETER KING (Republican, New York): No, Bob, not at all, because New York, as you know, is the number one Islamic terrorist target in the world. We're going to face unprecedented hardship because of the financial crisis affecting New York. And the last thing we need is a People magazine celebrity as our United States senator, especially someone who has no experience, who as far as I know has never held a real job, and now we've found that she hasn't

even voted half the time. She hasn't voted in any of the Democratic mayoral primaries, she didn't even vote the last time that Pat Moynihan ran for the seat that she's looking for now, or when Mario Cuomo was running the race of his life and lost. She wasn't there for that. And even, for instance, you know, you have Joel Klein on. I think Joel Klein would be an outstanding candidate. Shirley Jackson, another educator, would be a great candidate. Gary Ackerman, Geraldine Ferraro, these people who have been through the middle, know what it's like, who've had real-life experience. How can the average New Yorker identify with Caroline Kennedy when she's spent her whole life--and again, she comes from an outstanding family, I'm sure she's a wonderful parent, but she's never taken a stand on any public issue, she's never been--even held one news conference. She hasn't gone to one American Legion Hall, a Knights of Columbus Hall, a Masonic Temple or one synagogue to answer questions. When she does go on her so-called "listening tour" upstate, she's like running from the--you know, from city hall into the car to avoid reporters, and we just can't afford that. We can't afford to have a senator who is not prepared on day one.

So you'd say, as far as being a tough candidate, you know, I don't want to be hurting myself, Bob, but I would say any of the other Democratic candidates who are being named have far more credentials and are far more experienced than Caroline Kennedy. And the fact that this is on national television means that if she does get the appointment from Governor Paterson that there's going to be a magnifying glass on her, there's going to be a spotlight on her, and people are going to see that she is not equipped for the job and it's going to create national attention. And I think the Republican candidate in 2010 will have a much better opportunity against Caroline Kennedy than against the others, especially someone who can identify with middle income, working-class families.

SCHIEFFER: All right. All right.

Well, Joel Klein, if Kerry Kennedy were here this morning we'd certainly give her a chance to rebut some of this. But you're having to do double duty this morning, so I guess I'll give you a chance here to just go down the line here and talk about some of this. I must say, nobody at this point has said anything disparaging about Caroline Kennedy's character, but I would also add, as someone who covered the Congress for 15 years and was in the Capitol every--almost every day during those 15 years, it is hard for me to imagine Caroline Kennedy getting off one of those Senate elevators and being accosted by five or six reporters, because reporters have total access to candidates there. How is she going to manage that and how is she going to do that?

Mr. KLEIN: I've seen her do it here in New York. You know, we've done events together.

Let me make a couple of points, Bob, because I think there is a lot of carping and, you know, sort of clever analogies, but I think people are missing the essence of this woman. And I'll give you two incidences. Five and a half, six years ago, when I asked her along with Mayor Bloomberg to come help with New York City's public schools, that's not a glamorous thing to do. This woman put her shoulder to the wheel, went out there and sent a powerful message to the entire city that public education matters. She helped us raise money, she helped us forge partnerships and she spent time with our kids in the schools. I think that says a lot about her. She could have done a lot of things with the time she had. And most recently, think about this, she came out--and this was a courageous act--and announced that she was going to support then Senator Obama in the national election. That was not an easy thing to do, coming from New York City. She's a woman

of character and a woman of conviction. And my good friend Pete King said, you know, 'What does she know about the middle class or the working class or struggling people?' With all due respect, she came to work for the kids of New York. Most of those kids grow up in poor families. You know, you could say about Teddy Kennedy, 'What does he know about the working class and the poor and the underprivileged?' And yet he's the lion of the Senate. You could say about Hillary Clinton she had never run for any office before she became senator, and I don't think anyone would say she hasn't served this state with great distinction.

I think Caroline Kennedy has all of the right stuff. I think she's ready. Now, in the past, Bob--and you mentioned this--when you're dealing with the issues that her family went through and keeping her children away from the media and all the attention, that was her goal and she did it masterfully. But I have seen her over the last several years, I saw her on national television several times during this election, and she's a woman who is poised and ready. And is she a fighter for the things she cares about? You bet she's a fighter. I think this woman really is going to have the stuff the people that want to see in a candidate, ultimately. And if she gets to run against Pete King in 2010, I think we'll all enjoy that; including, I suspect, Pete.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Let me go back to Gary Ackerman. There's another intriguing angle to this story, and that is that Andrew Cuomo, who is the state attorney general, a lot of polls show that a lot of New Yorkers would like to see him get this appointment. But if there's--here's another possibility. Would it be dangerous for Governor Paterson to pick Caroline Kennedy for this post? And I say that, dangerous politically, because that might then encourage Andrew Cuomo, who'd like to have this Senate appointment, to run instead for governor, against Governor Paterson?

Rep. ACKERMAN: Well, there's always that possibility, and the governor has to figure that all into his calculus. But I think, in the end, that the governor's going to do what he believes is best in the interest of the state of New York rather than something political. He's proven time and time again that he's up to that task of doing it.

I just have to comment. My good friend Pete King, I think he's trying to lay the trap and bait Caroline Kennedy into this. Ted Kennedy may be the lion of the Senate, but Pete King is the tiger of the House. He can't wait to get her in there to rough her up. This is a very bruising, tough business to be in. Whether or not she fits that mold or not remains to be seen. Whether she is the lion of--that appears to be in her uncle, or whether her cousin Kathleen in Maryland, who was the lieutenant governor--nominated, picked to be on the slate with the governor--did it for eight years as a--as a Kennedy name and then committed the crime of losing the race for governor, terrible in the debates, couldn't hold a candle to the Republican opposition, was basically eaten alive and lost the state that a Democrat should be put in jail for losing. Pete King and anybody else on the Republican side can't wait to get her into the race.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, I could talk about this all morning. I want to thank all of you. This was just fascinating for me. We'll be back in one minute to talk with Dominic Carter about his take in a second.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And with us now, Dominic Carter, who is the political anchor of New York 1 News.

And, Dominic, I want to say, when we started calling around in New York City last week to find out who would have their finger on this story, you were the person who was most often mentioned, and that's why we asked you to be with us this morning. So what do you hear? What do you know? How is this thing going to come out?

Mr. DOMINIC CARTER (Political Anchor, NY1): Well, first of all, good morning, Bob, and thank you for that comment. From what I hear, I've listened for the last couple of minutes to the back-and forth between the members of Congress, Geraldine Ferraro and the schools chancellor. But from what I hear, it is basically a done deal; that if Caroline Kennedy wants this seat, and she has expressed interest in it, then it is hers. I should point out, Bob, that last week I had the opportunity to sit down with her for a couple of minutes up in Harlem, and the Camelot signs are there. You know, we can talk about how private a person she is and so on, you know, running away from the media, but the signs that I saw--and this is--it may--it may not be done, but I'm told that it's done--when she walked into this restaurant in Harlem, the crowd gave her basically a standing ovation, and then she sat down for a private event. I saw confidence, I saw that she wasn't looking to run. It has--to run away from the media. It has been somewhat of a slow rollout of Caroline Kennedy, and I think her folks are taking the heat for that.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let's talk a little bit about this other side of this story that I find so interesting--and again, there's so many connections here--and that is the Andrew Cuomo side; the son of another very famous political family in New York, the son of Mario Cuomo, the former governor--who, I would also say, was once married to Kerry Kennedy, who was supposed to be on this program this morning beating the drums for Caroline Kennedy. What about this deal? I'm hearing that he would very much like to have this appointment, and what happens if Governor Paterson does appoint Caroline Kennedy to this seat? Do you think that would increase the possibility that Andrew Cuomo might then turn around and run against Paterson for governor?

Mr. CARTER: Perhaps. But that might be a stretch, Bob. Andrew Cuomo is definitely interested in the job, but the problem is that if he does not get it and Governor Paterson goes with Caroline Kennedy, Andrew Cuomo has been down this road before in terms of trying to run in a primary against an African-American candidate. And in this case it would be a sitting governor, so that may not sit too well. He has a future in the Democratic Party and he may--I emphasize may--may not want to put it on the line to again challenge an African-American candidate where he didn't play too well the last time around.

SCHIEFFER: Well, you know, politicians' first rule is personal survival, and I think that's one of the things that Governor Paterson will obviously have to take into account. The other part of it is Governor Paterson wants somebody on that ticket with him who's going to get him get votes, somebody that can raise money without cutting into his money. Would that be the main reason that you see it that he would appoint Caroline Kennedy? Other than the fact that, well, she's qualified or whatever else he would say about her.

Mr. CARTER: I don't necessarily see it, Bob, as the major reason. Perhaps on top of that would be the incoming White House of President-elect Barack Obama...

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm.

Mr. CARTER: ...wants to see Caroline Kennedy in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has expressed support for her going to the Senate. But I'm glad you brought that point up, because it is a good one. If Caroline Kennedy is on the ticket, the same ticket in which Charles Schumer runs for re-election in 2010, she brings prestige, she brings the Kennedy name and she brings the ability to raise a lot of money. That's one less problem the Democrats will have to worry about.

SCHIEFFER: We're almost out of time here, but what about Hillary Clinton? Will she try to block this? No love lost with the Kennedy family after they endorsed Obama early on.

Mr. CARTER: She has told her people to back off. She is moving ahead in terms of becoming secretary of state. And you know, for all the criticism we've heard of Caroline Kennedy, we've been there before in terms of hearing this same exact thing about Hillary Clinton, Bob. And happy holidays to you.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Thank you very much, Dominic.

And we'll be back in just a moment.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally, a little explanation here. You have been watching TV and looking at me, and you may see that something's not right. I'm puffed up like a toad who's been down a hard road. You're thinking maybe I got in a fight. Is it a plug of tobacco or a face-lift gone wacko that gives me this joker's leer? Are the holiday rounds just adding on pounds? Mr. Christmas fat face, that's me this year. Well, thank you for asking, it won't be long lasting. Dental work has made me balloon. But Doctors Cohen and Miller, who combined on this thriller, say the swelling goes down real soon. In fact, you should have seen me yesterday.

Thanks for watching FACE THE NATION this year, and round or skinny, I hope the holidays gave you a big happy face.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And next week on FACE THE NATION, the lieutenant governor of Illinois, Pat Quinn. Happy holidays, everyone.

