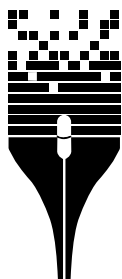


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The people who know something aren't talking. The people who are talking don't know anything about it....”

- Bob Shrum, Gore strategist, on CBS's *Face the Nation* on Sunday.

Bayh still in the mix as pundits weigh in

Edwards, Kerry, Lieberman take hits

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

The Howey Political Report

INDIANAPOLIS - After monitoring scores of Sunday newspapers and the morning political talk shows, HPR believes U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh is still under serious consideration by Al Gore for the vice presidential nomination.

The *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times* and ABC News all identified Bayh as on the latest weekend short list.

Top Gore aides insisted a decision has not been made, as the vice president's braintrust did the same thing we were doing - watching the papers and TV shows for reactions to trial balloons. “A decision hasn't been made yet,” said strategist Bob Shrum on CBS's *Face the Nation*. “The people who know something aren't talking. The people who are talking don't know anything about it.”

Gore campaign manager William Daley, speaking on ABC's *This Week with Sam & Cokie*, also said a decision hadn't been made and said that Gore was looking for a veep “who would be credible.” Daley added, “We're not going to talk about any of the candidates. Every one of these candidates the vice president is considering.”

The *Boston Globe* reported that “gender, religion and length of time in office will not determine his choice of running mate.” The *Globe* said that a “sense of frenzied tension has set in” and said that the television networks “have dispatched producers to trail four of the likely candidates” - Bayh, Edwards, Kerry and Lieberman. The *Globe* reported that “each of the potential running mates has provided Gore with telephone numbers where he can be reached. And each has been told to expect a resolution by tonight or early tomorrow.”

Gore speaks

On the ABC News website, Gore said, “I don't think Washington experience is the only experience that's relevant to leadership and to this country.”

Asked about a potential Jewish candidate, Gore said, “I don't think those old distinctions and categories matter

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Beginning Our 7th Year of Covering the Golden Age of Hoosier Politics

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T A P E

NBC POLL: An NBC Poll released during Sunday's edition of Meet the Press revealed Republican George Bush leading Democrat Al Gore, 47 to 36 percent. It reported that Green Party nominee Ralph Nader was getting 7 percent of the Democratic vote.

RUSSETT ID'S THREE: Tim Russert, host of NBC's Meet the Press, identified Sens. Joe Lieberman, John Kerry and John Edwards "apparently the three finalists."

FILLING SENATE SEATS: Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle was asked if he was concerned that Kerry and Lieberman's Senate seat could be filled by Republican governors if Gore won. Daschle told NBC's Meet the Press, "It concerns me, but what concerns me more is having someone who can assume the presidency." When Russert showed comments Daschle made to Roll Call in saying that he didn't want a senator chosen from a state with a Republican governor, he said, "Well, obviously it's a concern." When Russert asked Daschle if he was concerned by Edwards' mere 17 months of service in public office, the senator responded, "George Bush has absolutely no Washington experience." Obviously, Daschle was not including Bush's service to

these days, the way they did in the past. I think we've grown as a nation. I think we've grown beyond that kind of attitude. I think that the day is coming when that'll be completely irrelevant in all of our politics."

Daley said that the decision would be announced at noon Tuesday in Nashville. Cokie Roberts asked, "Will we know who it is before that?" Daley responded, "I hope not."

Speaking on ABC, analyst George Stephanopolous was asked by Sam Donaldson, "Any idea who it is?" Stephanopolous responded that Gore has "a penchant for surprises."

Evan Bayh

The primary rap against Bayh is about a month old - that he would alarm abortion rights groups. ABC's Cokie Roberts mentioned Bayh "had dropped down on some lists" and said that "some critics" in the pro-choice movement have protested his stance against partial birth abortions. Daley said that wouldn't eliminate Bayh from consideration and noted that he had been elected governor and senator "from a Republican state."

Other than Cokie Roberts comments - including one that both Kerry and Bayh, like Gore, attended St. Albans school - there were virtually no comments, pro or con, on Bayh.

The *Indianapolis Star* reported in its Sunday edition that Bayh's legal work for Eli Lilly Co. could hurt him as Gore intends to thematically take on big oil and big drug companies. But Bayh supporters said that his knowledge of the industry would actually give him more credibility on the issue. They also like his ability to attract moderates and independents.

Cokie Roberts noted that George W. Bush had only an 11-point lead coming out of the Republican convention and observed, "That is not a big bounce in the polls. We could be looking to Cook County on election night."

It is that factor - Bayh's familiarity

in Midwestern media markets such as Chicago, Cincinnati and Louisville, plus most of Indiana's non-Indianapolis TV markets that beam widely into Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio - that HPR has been forecasting as a Bayh strength to the Democratic ticket.

Following the Republican convention, both Gore and Bush bee-lined to the Midwest. Gore spoke in Chicago on Friday and once his veep decision is made, is expected to tour the Midwest with several governors, actor Rob Reiner, and President Clinton. the *Washington Post* reported on Sunday.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Gore has campaign stops scheduled in Cleveland next Sunday, an Aug. 14 rally in Independence, Mo., and an Aug. 15 rally in Michigan.

Bush commenced his "Change the Tone Tour" in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

Joe Lieberman

Bayh's primary rivals (in order) North Carolina Sen. John Edwards and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry have been taken major broadsides by TV pundits and newspaper columnists. Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman was hailed as the "courageous" choice, but Ed Rendell, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was quoted by the *New York Daily News* saying, "Joe Lieberman would be a bold, courageous choice. I don't think anyone can calculate the effect of having a Jew on the ticket. If Joe Lieberman was Episcopalian, I think he'd almost be a slam dunk."

Some Democrats have worried that Lieberman would not be able to campaign from sunset Fridays to sunset Saturdays due to his religious convictions.

John Kerry

Last Thursday, the inside talk was that Kerry was all set to be named veep. *USA Today's* Susan Page was still identifying him as "the likely choice" on CNN's

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Late Edition.

Steve Roberts of *U.S. News and World Report*, talking on CNN's *Late Edition*, said of Kerry and Lieberman, "To pick another Massachusetts Democrat... Lieberman is a better choice, but is the country really ready for a Jewish vice president?"

Roberts continued that Kerry had a Capitol Hill reputation of being a "show horse, not a work horse."

Kerry would satisfy Gore's need to demagogue big oil and big drug companies. In Chicago on Friday, Gore said, "Behind the flashing video wall is an agenda of rising gas prices and smog-filled skies that is of Big Oil, by Big Oil, and for Big Oil."

Chicago Sun-Times columnist Michael Sneed said that "Al Gore's veep vetters, who are circling around John Kerry, are very concerned about news that Kerry has cosmetic surgery on his chin ... and that may work against him." Fellow *Sun-Times* columnist Robert Novak reported that "GOP leaders said they are rooting for Kerry, contending he would pull the ticket to the left."

Kerry was quoted in the *Boston Globe* while loading up his SUV from a vacation as saying, "I don't know more than you do."

Many pundits have read into the fact that Gore will make his announcement at a War Memorial in Nashville as a tip towards Kerry's selection.

John Edwards

Several newspapers and TV shows identified Edwards as at the top of Gore's list. But that notion brought much scorn from the pundits in much the same way that Dan Quayle's selection did in 1988.

Said Steve Roberts on CNN's *Late Edition*, "If he walked into this studio I wouldn't recognize him. I don't see how this guy is plausible to serve as president." Tucker Carlson of the *National Standard*, also commenting on CNN's

Late Edition, said, "He looks like a TV weatherman. It would be weird."

USA Today's Susan Page said that Edwards' choice "would give away Gore's best issue - is he ready to be president."

New York Daily News columnist Michael Kramer reported that Edwards is at the top of Gore's list. "They're working very hard - in their own minds - to overcome the hurdles they see in choosing Edwards. The first is Edwards' relative inexperience. He's been in the Senate for just 17 months, and that makes it harder to say that he'd be ready to be president if something happens to Gore. On that score, Dick Cheney would be quite striking. The other stumbling block to Gore's selecting Edwards is his career as a millionaire trial lawyer."

Kramer quoted an unnamed Gore aide as saying, "That can hurt, too. Many people hate trial lawyers, since they see them doing things like suing doctors and winning big verdicts, which then drive up health care costs - and Edwards has been incredibly successful one of that breed."

Edwards, who got his start as a lawyer defending record companies accused of pirating Elvis Presley records, defeated Sen. Lauch Faircloth in the 1998 and spent \$10 million of his own money (\$14 million raised) to win by 4 percent.

HPR Analysis

We've seen three different so-called "front runners" vetted in successive days by secretive Gore campaign sources. All have taken some substantial punches by the media and various constituencies. We're struck that Bayh's chief liability was vetted more than a month ago.

We are also intrigued by both the Bush and Gore campaigns heading straight to the Midwest and Cokie Roberts comments about Cook County on election night. At this writing, we still believe that Sen. Bayh is still under serious consideration. ❖

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T A P E

his father in the White House.

ABC NEWS said that Bush had a 12 point lead over Gore in its first post-convention poll.

McCain coming to Indy: U.S. Sen. John McCain will make a campaign appearance on behalf of Indiana gubernatorial candidate David McIntosh at 1 p.m. Monday at the City Market in downtown Indianapolis.



What do the Bulen Symposium,
The Indiana Democratic Editorial Association,
The Fort Wayne Business Forum,
The Lugar Series, The Bowen Institute,
The Economic Club of Michiana,
Evansville Chamber of Commerce,
Indiana Bankers Association,
Indiana Libertarian Party,
Fort Wayne Rotary Club,
Allen County Republicans,
Marion County Democratic Chairman's Club,
and Elkhart County League of Women Voters
have in common?

(They've all had HPR's Brian Howey
appear before their members to give his unique insights
and perspectives on the Indiana political process).

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