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“The Squeeze is On”

by
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The squeeze is on... in both the Republican and Democrat stables of candidates for President. Little by little the pressure of political reality is getting harder to ignore and one by one those once vying for the nation's top job are dropping off on both sides of the campaign trail. Democrats **Richardson, Hunter, Gravel, Dodd, Biden, and Kucinich** all dropped by the wayside and finally, as of last night, former Senator **John Edwards** said it was time to get back to doing that which he does best... nothing. The number of Republicans who began the journey for the White House is far fewer as well. **Brownback, Gilmore, Tancredo, the Thompsons, Tommy and Fred,** have all decided to call it quits.

Possibly, by the time you read this, **Giuliani**, after his less than stellar 3rd place finish in Florida, has already decided to cut his losses and shift his attention to seeing the his old friend **John McCain** wins all the marbles and will possibly find a spot in his regime for him... does Attorney General sound too far-fetched? **Huckabee** still believes, as Romney, that his constant 3rd and 4th place finishes are a good sign that there is a remnant of Americans that will bring him through in the end, but his lack of that all important ingredient... money... might not allow him to continue his search for the holy grail as long as Romney. **Ron Paul**, who finished last in FL is still hanging on by sheer stubbornness, I guess, trying to get his message of fiscal responsibility ad nauseam over the air waves.

As I write this the **McCain** camp is celebrating a win in Florida that was, in McCain's own words, **“...not a landslide, but sweet nonetheless...”** Of course finishing second... again... was **Mitt Romney** who still feels he's got the momentum on his side to win the battle ahead for the delegates in the more conservative Southern states and those in middle America. You've just gotta admire his optimism... and in this world, of course, nothing is impossible. With only 92 Republican delegates assigned, (97 for McCain, 74 for Romney, 75 for Giuliani, and 29 for Paul,) there remains over 2,000 delegates still up for grabs in the remaining state primaries to win the nomination, there is still a battle to be waged.

On the Democrat side, with Edwards out of the race it is now a two person race, **Clinton and Obama...** with **Obama leading the delegate race with 63 to Hillary's 48**, as of this date, January 30th. Obviously, each of them feels they have the stamina and definitely the financial staying power with huge war coffers to pay for the thousands of TV, Radio and Print advertising spots that will be flooding the media over the next 10 months.

What is surprising to some, in the media and other candidates on the campaign trail, is that both McCain and Obama are suddenly the darlings of their parties after having been given up for dead, politically speaking, several months ago. McCain's win in New Hampshire followed by surprising wins in South Carolina and Florida seemed to have catapulted him to the leader in the Republican race in spite of his less than total conservative ideas and political cronies. He has gone together with Ted Kennedy and Feingold to pass

legislation on the conservative suspect list, and just last month Sen. Lieberman of Connecticut, a Democrat turned Independent, endorsed McCain as his preferential candidate for President.

Obama began his surge before the Iowa caucuses after Hillary did her soft shoe dance around the issue of New York Governor Spitzer's plan to issue 1 Million illegal immigrants driving licenses to "protect the lives of New York citizens."

First Hillary was for it, then she was against it, and then she said she had never said she was for it, just that she "could understand why Spitzer would want to do it." This wishy-washy ambivalence was the first of several slips that she had made on the campaign trail making her "faithful" followers see a chink in her armor of invincibility everyone thought she was wearing. Obama was quick to take advantage of those chinks and attack them openly.

It is generally felt by many Republicans that McCain is the only candidate tough enough to take either Hillary or Obama head on and win a Presidential election. Both Romney and Giuliani, according to all the major polls taken would be soundly whipped by Hillary or Obama, while McCain, apparently, is just rebellious, cantankerous and left-leaning enough to earn votes from both Democrats and Independents, in addition to moderate Republicans. Every Poll, with one or two exceptions of polls taken by ultra-liberal organizations shows McCain would finish ahead of Hillary and/or Obama from 1.6% to 8%.

Let's all remember, however, that political races are not scientifically configured and operated, therefore, if any "October surprise" should rear its ugly head between now and the General Election in November, disparaging to any of the front runners, all logic and reason will no longer enter into the voters' rationale determining for whom they will cast their vote.

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