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# National News

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## Dean Schemes To Shut Down Dem Convention

The latest atrocity to come out of George Soros pawn Howard Dean is that the Democratic National Committee chairman is trying to shut the 18 million loyal Democratic and independent voters who supported Hillary Clinton out of the Denver convention altogether. In addition to reports that the Obama campaign is pushing to actually unseat all the Clinton delegates, and replace them with Obama loyalists, there are more recent reports that Dean is trying to prevent any balloting for the Democratic nominee, and instead to just ram through a voice vote for Obama, without even the traditional state-by-state roll call.

Clearly, between the Obama campaign and Howard Dean, there is a great deal of worry that the vicious campaign that was run against Hillary Clinton has created a level of fury, which could explode at the convention. According to one well-placed Washington source, if 20% of the Hillary Clinton voters were to sit out the November Presidential vote, that would amount to a loss of 4 million potential Obama voters—if, indeed, Obama were to wind up with the nomination in the first place. That could spell certain doom for Obama's already-doomed candidacy.

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## Supreme Court Restores Habeas to Detainees

For the third time since 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court has rebuked the Bush Administration for its "war-on-terror" detention policies, initiated and promoted by Vice President Dick Cheney.

On June 12, the high court ruled, in a 5-4 decision, that prisoners at Guantanamo have the right to challenge their detentions in the Federal court system, and that neither the Executive nor the Congress can take that right away from them. In so doing, the Court overturned the habeas-stripping pro-

visions of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, the "torture bill" that was rammed through Congress under extraordinary pressure brought to bear on the Senate, especially by Cheney personally.

The decision was written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, now considered the crucial "swing vote" on the court; dissenting were the Administration's two new Federalist Society justices, Alito and Roberts, plus Scalia and Thomas.

Rebutting the Cheney/Schmittlerian argument that in times of emergency, the laws and the Constitution itself can be overridden by the Leader (the "Unitary Executive"), Justice Kennedy wrote for the Court's majority: "The laws and Constitution are designed to survive, and remain in force, in extraordinary times."

The ruling could resurrect the hundreds of lawsuits seeking habeas corpus, consolidated in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., but which have been on hold pending the Supreme Court ruling. The ruling means that the petitions for habeas corpus must be considered by the court; it does not automatically mean that the petitions must be granted.

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## Bloomberg Again Seeks The Public Spotlight

Fascist New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is once again being widely touted as a possible Vice-Presidential candidate, most likely for Republican Senator John McCain, but also possibly for Senator Barack Obama. He is, accordingly, seeking the public spotlight.

Bloomberg appeared in front of the Senate Banking Committee June 12, no doubt at the invitation of its chairman, Felix Rohatyn-friend Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.), to testify on the subject of "Condition of our Nation's Infrastructure: Local Perspectives from Mayors."

When the subject of public-private partnership (Bloomberg's Mussolini-style proposal) came up, he gave his pitch: that the biggest impediment is the lack of a revenue stream—that is, the kind of guaranteed loot-

ing rights that private investors will insist on, before putting in a penny to urban infrastructure. Bloomberg complained that the New York state legislature rejected his congestion pricing scheme for the city, which was a way to generate a revenue stream which could then be used to attract private investors.

"We are going to have to have a dedicated funding source not authorized by a legislature because without that nobody's going to lend you the money," Bloomberg said, and private investors will have to be allowed to run the infrastructure like a business—meaning that wages and jobs will not be protected as they often are in the public sector.

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## Political Committees Still Want Hillary

Political action committees are organizing to urge Hillary Clinton to take her nomination fight on to the Democratic National Convention in Denver in late August.

People United Means Action (blog, pumapac.org), which describes itself as "completely grassroots," is taking a multi-pronged approach: urging people to write protest letters to Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean, withdrawing membership in the Democratic Party and re-registering as Independents in states where there are no upcoming Democratic primaries; requesting refunds for contributions made to the DNC; and reaching "Unfaithful Superdelegates" whose constituents voted for Clinton, but who have nonetheless, for now, committed their vote to Barack Obama.

Another committee, Hillary Rapid Responders (www.hillaryresponders.com), reportedly is circulating petitions to encourage Clinton to continue the nomination fight, as well as petitions to have Obama select her as his running mate. The Rapid Responders site features Hillary's eight-page campaign Economic Blueprint. (A recent Pew Research Center poll showed that 88% of Americans consider the economy to be the top 2008 election priority.)