

January 7, 2008

From: Stephen Stone, CEO, We Need Alan Keyes for President
To: Robert M. "Mike" Duncan, Chairman, Republican National Committee
Subj: Iowa deception

Dear Mike,

As CEO of the Alan Keyes for President Campaign, I write to bring to your attention evidence of deception by the Iowa Republican Party with regard to the results of the recent caucuses.

In our judgment, the tactics we've witnessed by the state party are reminiscent of "communist-style" electoral politics. By unfairly developing a "suggested ballot" of candidates, and allowing irregular handling of votes for Ambassador Keyes, state party officials created an atmosphere of intimidation for Keyes voters. Aside from damaging the environment for free choice in the election process, party officials may also have violated the election laws.

By contrast with the Democrats, the Iowa Republican Party has persisted in treating one of its presidential candidates as though he were some version of Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man." This tarnishes the reputation of the Republican Party throughout the nation. It also creates the perception that, like the Communist Party bosses in the old Soviet Union, Republican Party leaders are seeking to prevent the people from fairly considering a candidate with views or characteristics they dislike.

To the extent this kind of deception remains uncorrected—not only in Iowa, but in other states where similar attempts to preempt electoral choice have been evident—the Republican Party will be damaged. As faithful, principled Republicans, we hope this damage can be avoided.

At least six grievances

Among recent behavior by the Iowa GOP that we wish you to consider are the following:

- 1) In the Iowa caucuses, GOP leaders privately distributed their own lists of "suggested" candidates to all precinct captains, for official use and photocopy distribution to voters during the caucuses, listing all their own "recognized" and "pre-approved" candidates, while omitting Alan Keyes. This forced Keyes supporters to "write in" Alan's name, giving unfair advantage to other candidates whose names were clearly written (and easily checked off) on "ballot-like" slips of paper. This "suggested ballot" was developed with no prior notice to potential candidates and no fair procedure for gaining ballot access.
- 2) The Iowa GOP leaders excluded Alan Keyes' name from both the "Presidential Preference Poll Reporting Procedures" and the electronic cell-phone voice collection system on caucus

night, but included their own favorite candidates. We have been told that this made it difficult to collect or count votes Dr. Keyes received, to report them to state headquarters in Des Moines, or to disclose them to the public until several days later. While Iowa GOP leaders quickly counted and widely reported the votes for their favored candidates, they intentionally omitted to count Ambassador Keyes' votes, and they are continuing to withhold them at this time. Apparently, this is being done so that the votes will not be reported until after the New Hampshire and Wyoming primaries. As of this writing, party officials still refuse to tell the American people how many Iowans voted for Alan Keyes. We believe that they are purposefully creating a false impression of the facts.

3) Iowans who voted for Alan Keyes effectively had their votes discarded, rather than counted and reported along with those of other candidates on caucus night. An attached article, which the Keyes campaign released Friday, quotes Iowa voters, precinct captains, recorders, and secretaries who tried in vain to accurately report positive votes for Alan Keyes, but were stonewalled by Iowa GOP leadership who unapologetically blocked their own citizens' attempts to tally and report Alan's votes.

4) As of today, the Iowa GOP leaders still have not listed Alan's name as a declared candidate on their website, www.iowagop.net, but continue to give free listing and advertising to all other nationally-recognized candidates, providing them unfair advantage and manipulating the perception of voters.

5) When confronted with these discrepancies after the caucuses, one Iowa GOP official made false statements to explain these discrepancies, stating: "Alan Keyes declared his candidacy too late, so we couldn't update our ballots or electronic cell-phone message collection program." This claim is ridiculous. It doesn't take four months to update a cell-phone message! The attempt to deceive is also proved by the fact Senator Sam Brownback's name was properly removed from the "suggested ballot" in light of his withdrawal on October 19, but Ambassador Alan Keyes' name was not added despite the fact that he announced a full month earlier, on September 14. Moreover, Iowa GOP leaders were among those who attended the Des Moines Register debate on December 12, so it's absurd to assert that they didn't realize Ambassador Keyes was in the running.

6) Another Iowa GOP official, when confronted with these discrepancies, told an Iowa Keyes voter, "We've privately counted the tallies for Alan Keyes, but we're not reporting it because the press hasn't asked for them." Do Republican leaders serve the press or the American people? Today, the Iowa GOP website displays detailed precinct-by-precinct vote tallies, including 5 votes for Tom Tancredo, who quit the race before the vote was taken. There is no mention of Alan Keyes.

Note that any later counting of paper ballots, or attempts to "correct" the improper vote count, will not be credible, for two reasons: 1) Only on caucus night are citizens present to provide

public scrutiny for vote counting; 2) Whatever “corrective” statements are issued later will not have been given the same public scrutiny as initial false impression; and 3) The purpose of the “first in the nation” caucuses is to allow Iowa voters to have a positive impact on the electoral process. But by creating a deceptive public perception damaging to only one candidate, state GOP officials have given an impression of unfairness that taints all Republicans who apparently feel a bias against him.

Significance


Whether Ambassador Keyes actually received 10 votes or 10,000 is insignificant compared to the damage done to the good faith and trust of Iowa citizens, especially those who voted or were inclined to vote for him, but who were discouraged and disenfranchised on caucus night, thanks to the biased preparations and actions of Iowa GOP leadership. The issue is the Republican Party’s duty to the electorate, the duty to conduct fair and impartial elections. “Communist-style” elections that seek to preempt and intimidate voters using an unfairly developed “suggested ballot” are unjust and un-American.

We therefore request that the RNC look fully into this matter and correct the current situation of deception and electoral manipulation. Attached are documents that support the claims raised by the Keyes campaign in this matter.

Let me stress in closing that the issue is about fairness, open disclosure, and public accountability for our nation’s voting procedures. “Communist-style” electoral practices damage the democratic process and sully the image of American freedom in the eyes of the world. We sincerely ask you to ensure that the remainder of the 2008 presidential election is conducted in a manner consistent with maintaining the integrity of the nation’s electoral process. The presidential election is the one truly national choice the American people make. There is clearly a constitutional obligation to assure that all citizens in every state enjoy equally the privilege of participating in the election, as well as equal treatment under all election laws and procedures.

I believe that all Americans, and especially all fair-minded Republicans, will look favorably on your prompt and considerate efforts to assure that this obligation will be respected in the Republican nominating process throughout the country.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Stone', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Stone
CEO, Alan Keyes for President