



ADVANCING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



The Politics of Business: CREW DC Hosts Mary Matalin and Donna Brazile

January 21, 2016

Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC

CREW DC ushered in the 2016 luncheon program season with a dynamic presentation featuring long-time friends Mary Matalin and Donna Brazile. News4's Julie Carey served as moderator.

Democratic strategist Brazile started the program off by declaring 2016 a weird, wicked political year. "We might see dragons," was the first of several memorable Brazile quotes peppered through the hour-long session.

The first question the pair debated was if the presidential nominees were selected today, who would it be? Republican Matalin was non-committal on her party's choice. However, she quickly noted that Hillary Clinton would not be the Democratic nominee. Brazile stated that the Democratic race is between Clinton and Bernie Sanders, with Sanders picking up steam. "Someone needs to call (Martin) O'Malley an Uber" was another standout Brazile quote.

Both agreed that the primaries will be turbulent and the nominees not decided until April. Brazile asserted that candidates will lose steam (Clinton); there will be crash landings (Chris Christie); and, Sanders has a lot of fuel in his tank.

Matalin spoke about how the role of money has changed from the last election to this one. In 2012, a political war chest of \$100 million would have won a nomination. 80% of those funds would have been spent on media buys. Today's voter does not believe the media, citing Jeb Bush's substantial campaign funding can't get him out of the single digits in most polls. Voters are listening to what the candidates are saying and responding to authenticity – hence, the growing popularity of Donald Trump and Sanders.

Carey asked if there could be contested conventions. Matalin declared that concept fantasy but Brazile conceded that the Democratic convention could be decided by Super Delegates to avoid a split convention.

Brazile noted that Millennials have the power to shape the electoral process. If they show up to vote like they did in the last two elections, it could be very interesting.

Finally, Carey posed the question of whether women are gaining ground in American politics. Matalin responded that she is for a message, not necessarily a woman. Brazile believes a woman will be elected

President in her lifetime, noting that Hillary Clinton is the only person to receive 18 million votes in a primary so the precedent has been set.