

decisively in South Carolina. He has not locked up anything except the enduring wrath of Newt Gingrich and the endorsement of Donald Trump.

If Romney won all the delegates from this point forward, he would not have the nomination locked up until sometime in April, but there is no way he is going to win all the delegates.

Point One: Ron Paul is not going anywhere. His candidacy is issue oriented and he can't bring attention to his issues unless he stays in the race. You can probably count on Paul winning between 10 and 15 percent of the delegates from this point forward.

Point Two: Newt Gingrich is not going anywhere. Fact is, he's 68 years old and if he isn't elected now, it's never going to happen. If Gingrich wanted an excuse to drop out of the race, he could have taken it last summer when his campaign staff abandoned him and left him for dead. Instead, he battled on and has been the front-runner for several long stretches. You can probably count on Gingrich winning between 25 and 30 percent of the delegates from this point forward, especially in the South and in rural states.

Point Three: Rick Santorum PROBABLY isn't going anywhere either. Why should he? He doesn't think Romney would make a good president, and he doesn't think Gingrich makes a good candidate. If Gingrich implodes, it gives Santorum a chance to prove he is a better statesman than Romney. As long as Santorum decides to keep going, he can probably pick up between 10 and 20 percent of the delegates.

Point Four: The more time that passes, the more likely it is that fortunes will shift once again. Romney has lost his lead twice already, and it is entirely possible that if Gingrich, Paul and Santorum remain patient, that it will happen again. Even if Santorum drops out, it is hard to see Romney amassing a majority of the delegates before the convention.

If you like Mitt Romney, more power to you. It's entirely possible he would make a great president. I don't have a crystal ball, just a hunch that he represents the status quo at a time when the status quo sucks.

What I want to know is what do the party bosses have against the voters in the 45 states that haven't voted yet? Why do they think that Montana shouldn't be heard from in a race that is obviously quite close and competitive and intensely fought. What are they afraid of? Why not let the process play out in the way intended? Could they just be defending the status quo that lets them have power whether Romney wins or Obama wins?

I wouldn't be surprised.

Remember, the current primary system was invented to put power in the hands of the people and to take it away from those power brokers in Washington, D.C., and in state capitals. Don't let Big Media and Big Government tell you that your vote is irrelevant. Don't get stuck with the candidate they say you want. Don't be pulled along without at least fighting back.

Make your own choice. Vote your own conscience, not for the candidate that Bob Dole and John McCain tell you will win in November. After all, what do they know about winning?

GOP ELEPHANT FINALLY HEARS FROM LITTLE OLD WHOVILLE

February 12, 2012

Last week, the Republican primary season took as its inspiration the Dr. Seuss classic "Horton Hears a Who" — only in this new version it was the big fat GOP elephant that needed to get the wax out of its ears.

The people of Iowa had tried to speak, but no one heard them. The people of South Carolina had yelled as loud as they could, but they were dismissed as Neanderthals from the Deep South.

But finally when the people of Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado all shouted together on one night, not only the elephant but even the elephant's handlers in the national media could hear the message loud and clear:

“WE DON’T WANT ROMNEY!”

Of course, in the original story, Horton the elephant was the good guy who used his super-sensitive ears to realize that a small speck of dust was talking to him, and lo and behold, actually contained a multitude of people — or in this case Whos, the creatures who inhabited the tiny world of Whoville.

The GOP elephant, however, didn’t quite fit the bill. In fact, in this version of the story, the elephant has been playing the role of the bad guy. Everywhere you looked, the GOP establishment has been trying to use its heavyweights to crush Whoville, also known as the Republican conservative base. They sent in John McCain. They sent in Robert Dole. Heck, they even sent in that shape-shifter Ann Coulter to confuse the masses.

Don’t listen to the voices of those “little people,” they said. Move along — there’s nothing to see here, they told anyone curious after earlier victories by Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich.

“Little people,” it seems, weren’t supposed to get a vote — unless they agreed to vote for Mitt Romney, the predetermined winner of the GOP primary process. After five states had voted, Romney had a lead of three states to two. Even though he had less than one-tenth of the delegates needed to actually win the nomination, it was declared by the party mavens like Karl Rove that Romney was the “inevitable nominee.”

The elephant handlers in the media just went along with the official story. Everyone was secretly hoping that they could watch the true conservatives, the true Republicans, be boiled in a vat of Beezelnut oil, just like Dr. Seuss envisioned as the potential fate of Whoville. Let’s face it, for someone like John McCain, that would be height of fun!

Except it never happened... Instead, the Republicans of Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado convincingly, overwhelmingly, shouted just like the tiny Whos in Whoville who were about to be boiled in oil, “We are here. We are HERE! WE ARE HERE!”

Indeed, in two of those states, they voted for Rick Santorum by a measure of two to one, over Mitt Romney. That was a

message that could not be denied. The little people had spoken LOUD AND CLEAR.

That doesn’t mean they can necessarily stop Romney. And it certainly doesn’t mean they can stop President Obama. But it means that at least for now, they can’t be ignored. And we owe that not to John McCain, not to Robert Dole, not to Karl Rove and certainly not to Ann Coulter. We owe it to the people of Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado.

Thank you, folks.

And to the people of Arizona and Michigan, who will be heard from next, and to the people of the other 41 states that still have yet to vote, don’t give up and don’t listen to the pundits who tell you that you don’t matter. Instead listen to Dr. Seuss and his elephant hero:

"Don't give up! I believe in you all.

A person's a person, no matter how small!

And you very small persons will not have to die

If you make yourselves heard! So come on, now, and TRY!"

DEATH OF A NATION: FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF

February 19, 2012

It is painful for me to have to write this column, just as it is always painful to write about the loss of something or someone near and dear to us — but finally the truth must be told:

The country I grew up in — the republic of the United States of America — is dead. What is left in its place is a sham, a shell, a rat’s nest of teeth and claws and strangulating regulations and laws — a post-holocaust zombieland that has the appearance of life, but survives only by sucking the blood out of its own increasingly despondent inhabitants.

This last week, the republic made one last desperate stand before its heart was ripped out and savagely displayed in the gladiator’s arena that is cable news. Were there any good and gentle citizens left watching, their countenances must surely