

JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY - 01/21/08

The first step in the process of electing the President of the United States of America is a series of primary elections and caucuses.

HOW DID “PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY” ORIGINATE?

***Definition (Random House):* A direct primary for the selection of state delegates to a national party convention and the expression of preference for a U.S. presidential nominee.**

***Online Etymology:* “Primary” - 1471, "of the first order," from Latin *primarius* "of the first rank, chief, principal, excellent," from *primus* "first." Primary election is recorded from 1792 (France); in a U.S. context, recorded from 1835; earlier primary caucus (1821).**

***History:* In the early American 20th century there was a movement to give more power to citizens in the selection of candidates for the party's nomination. The primary election developed from this reform movement. In a primary election, registered voters may participate in choosing the candidate for the party's nomination by voting through secret ballot, as in a general election.**

Conventional Wisdom: Presidential Primary = A selection process

Moment of Zen: The primaries are hyper media events presented as a series of blockbuster heavyweight bouts; e.g., Super Tuesday