



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK MONDAY - 01/28/08

← *Political Football, President Benjamin*

Harrison: "What can I do when both parties insist on kicking?"

HOW DID TERM “POLITICAL FOOTBALL” ORIGINATE?

The term '*political football*' is often used during an election campaign by candidates to highlight issues that have not been completely addressed, such as social security or immigration.

Definition: An issue that is continually debated, but left unresolved; often with the sense that the groups are keeping the issue unresolved so that it can be used for political benefit.

Origin: The phrase first appeared during the term of President Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893) in a U.S. political cartoon in *The Judge*, a weekly satirical magazine established in 1881.

The term has been extensively used throughout the political world as an effective ploy in an attempt to sway public opinion.

Conventional Wisdom: Political Football = Intentionally unresolved

Moment of Zen: New England has the Patriots & New York has the Giants, but the best political football is played in Washington, DC.