

# **JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **MONDAY – 8/15/2011**

**Any contract should clearly indicate who is calling the shots.**

**HOW DID THE TERM “*CALLING THE SHOTS*” ORIGINATE?**

***Definition:*** To call the shots is an idiomatic expression that means to be in command. To be in control, to make the decisions, to run the show and to be the one truly in charge, especially as opposed to being merely a nominal leader or figurehead.

***Origin (Oxford English Dictionary):*** This term seems to be a surprisingly recent phrase, having first appeared in print in the late 1960s, although it was probably in use as verbal slang for years or even decades before used in print. An earlier phrase, "to call one's shots," meaning to announce exactly what one is going to do, apparently was current by the 1930s.

***Word Detective:*** Originally, we had assumed that the term came from billiards, but the earliest citations clearly refer to target shooting. That "*calling the shots*" occurs in billiards is clearly true. If you are a fan of professional basketball, we now better understand the meaning of who *calls the shots* – it has always been about the highly paid stand-out players!

**C. W.:** *Calling The Shots* = To be the one truly in charge

**Zen:** To call the shots, you must be in charge of your own life