

JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY - 02/11/08

Unlike the Republicans, the Democrats rely more heavily on "super-delegates" in their Presidential nomination process.

HOW DID POLITICAL TERM "SUPER-DELEGATE" ORIGINATE?

***Definition:* A party leader or elected public official chosen as an uncommitted/unpledged delegate to a national political convention.**

***History:* After losing the nomination in the 1968 Democratic National Convention, George McGovern chaired a commission to significantly change the rules governing the selection of delegates, including abandoning the "unit rule" (winner take all), which had allowed for an entire state's delegate to be decided by a majority.**

***Origin:* The introduction of "super-delegates" to the nomination process originated in 1984, which boosted Walter Mondale, because of his strength among party officials, to the nomination.**

***Fundamentals:* 39% (796/2,025) of the number of the Democratic Party Convention delegates needed to win are "super-delegates," who are not elected, but are picked by the party establishment - former Presidents, Governors, Senators, etc...**

Conventional Wisdom: Super-delegate = Unelected and unpledged

Moment of Zen: Control of the process is true power