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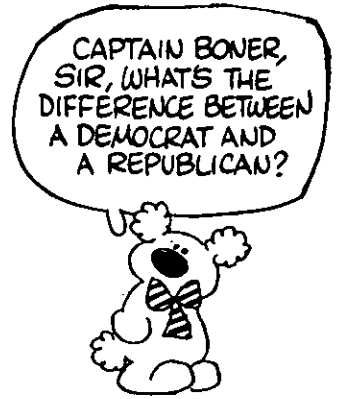
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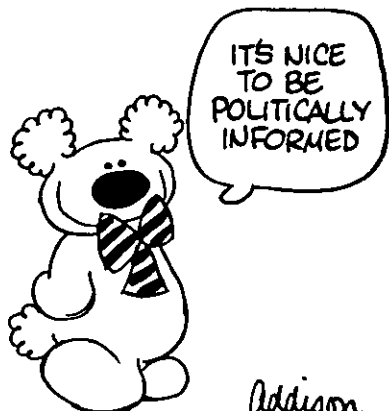
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Your Party...

This handbook is to help you, the reader, to be a better citizen. Our government is based upon citizen participation. As in any activity, the more you know about it, the more effective you can be. We trust that the basic information supplied in this practical politics text will make political activity more practical and meaningful to you.



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Addison

...and You

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The Government and the Party

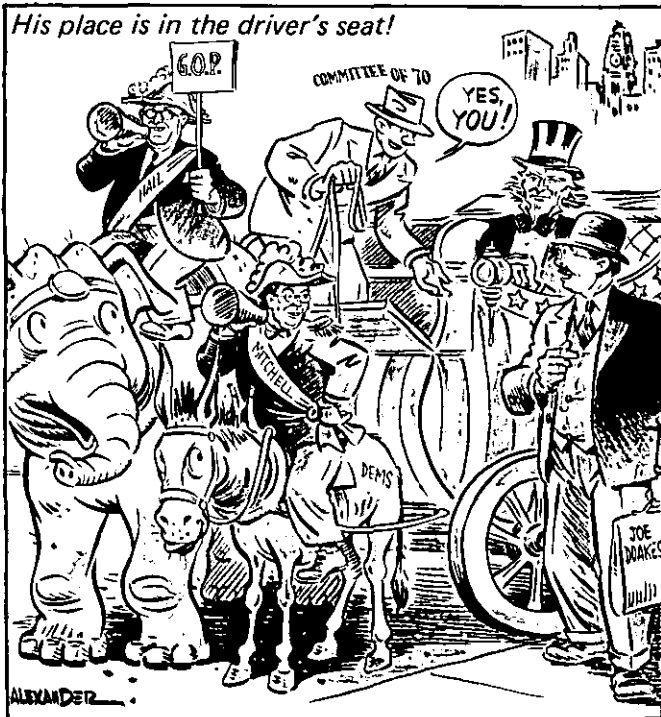
Our lives are constantly being affected by the decisions of government. The corner of our block is rezoned for a bowling alley; suddenly we are paying a higher wage tax; the air is made a little cleaner by pollution controls; our auto tag fee goes up; a day-care center opens in our neighborhood; our mom gets a bigger Social Security check; a new law changes our draft status.

These measures—whether we applaud or denounce them—leap at us from Philadelphia or Harrisburg or Washington. “Who voted for that?” we ask. “Did our city councilman (or state senator or congressman) go along with that bill? How did he get elected, anyway?”

It’s how he got elected—and how his successor will get elected—that this book on political parties hopes to show.

Whatever your representative’s views, he almost certainly got elected through a political party. He may have been a party “regular” who worked his way up, or an “independent” who entered the party primary and won. Either way, he had to obtain the help and votes of his fellow citizens.

If he wants to be re-elected he will stay in touch with his party supporters. He will consult committeemen, ward leaders and citizens’ groups to learn what his constituents need and want. And when he votes yes or



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no on crucial bills, he will be considering his supporters' desires.

If we understand how our political parties operate, we will know how our representative got elected. We will see what forces may influence his voting. And we will know how to become part of those forces, or to put a candidate of our own choosing (maybe even ourselves) on the road to political office.

Then, when government starts considering laws that will change our lives, we will know how to make our voice heard.

Your First Move

Your first step toward making your voice heard in government is to register to vote.

You can become a registered voter in Pennsylvania if you are a United States citizen, at least 18 years old, and have resided in Pennsylvania for three months.

In Philadelphia, you can register at the Registration Division office on the ground floor in City Hall Annex. There also are temporary neighborhood registration locations. For information, consult the Philadelphia telephone book under "Philadelphia, City and County, Voting and Registration" or call MU 6-1776.

The City of Philadelphia is a county in itself. If you live in another county, consult the telephone book under the name of that county for registration information.

If, after registering, you move into a new election division, even one within your city or county, you must re-register.

When you arrive at the registration office, you will be asked what party—if any—you wish to join. You can choose Democratic, Republican or one of the other parties. If you do not want to affiliate with any party, you can be listed as "Non-Partisan."

Should you register as a member of a party? If you do you will have these advantages:

- You will have the privilege of voting in your

party's primary election in the Spring of each year. In this election, you choose those individuals among the candidates of your own party who are seeking the party's nomination for a city, state or national post. The winners will represent your party in the November election. Of course when the general election comes in November, you are not obligated to vote for any of your own party's nominees; you are free to choose the best person running for each office no matter what party ticket he is running on.

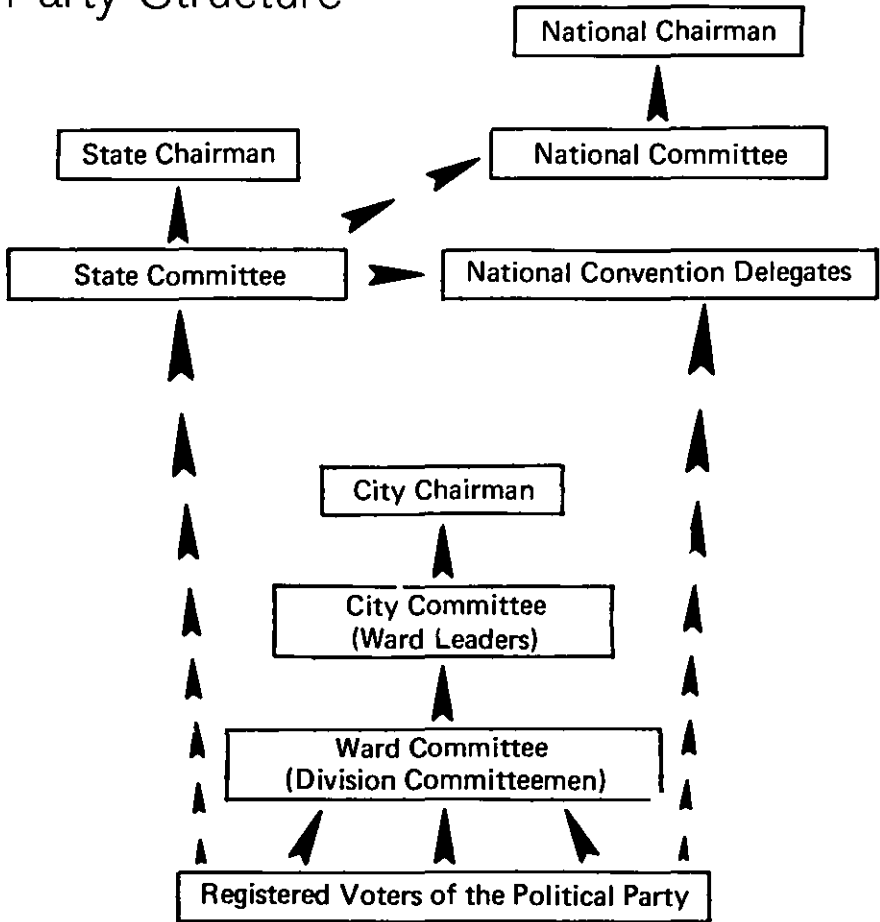
- You will have a vote for party officers, from neighborhood committeeman to delegates to the Presidential nominating conventions.
- You can run for these party offices yourself. Or you can work for candidates who share your views.
- You will probably be courted by your party candidates. They will send you campaign literature, invitations to political rallies, etc. These will help you meet and evaluate the leading persons and candidates in your party.

Persons who are registered as non-partisans, independents or in a political body that has not yet obtained party status cannot vote for candidates at primaries. At primaries, these voters are restricted to voting on questions on the ballot or candidates in special elections.

Keep in mind that, if at any time after becoming a registered voter you want to change your party affiliation, you are free to do so during the registration period after a November election.

So let us say you are now a registered voter, affiliated with the party of your choice. What happens next?

Party Structure



If you are a registered voter in either of the two major political parties, you have a hand in choosing your party officials at each level—local, state and national. You elect neighborhood committeemen, state committeemen and some of the delegates to the Presidential nominating convention. Party rules, by law, are on file with the state and county election bureaus.

The Committeeman

Once registered, you will no doubt want to vote in the first election for which you are eligible. On election day, you will find your polling place somewhere within your election division. Consult the newspapers or the Board of Elections for the address of your neighborhood polling place.

The election division is Philadelphia's smallest political subdivision or unit. There are more than 1700 of them in the city, each usually containing 600 to 700 voters. The average division includes several square blocks in heavily populated sections and a slightly larger geographical area in less densely populated neighborhoods. One large apartment house or high-rise housing development can be a division in itself. The size and number of divisions, which are known in most other Pennsylvania counties as "election precincts," are governed by law. Provisions in the Pennsylvania Election Code provide for their creation, consolidation and splitting.

Within your division, you will probably have your first contact with a representative of your party—the committeeman. Two committeemen are elected by party members in each division. Their main job is to get out a big vote, so shortly before each election, you should expect to hear from them. They should be dis-

Your Party . . .

tributing campaign literature and calling or visiting to remind you to vote.

At other times during the year, you should find your committeemen available for a second type of duty—being your spokesmen in the party hierarchy. If you and your neighbors have views on a proposed zoning change or highway route, for instance, your committeemen should convey your feelings to the ward leader, other party leaders or the lawmakers involved.

Being a committeeman is not a full-time job, and there is no salary. Since there is no limit on the number of consecutive terms a person may serve, many Philadelphians have spent their entire adulthood in this office.

Your committeeman may be dedicated, energetic and helpful in carrying his constituents' wishes and needs to the party.

On the other hand, you may be saying, "I've been registered a long time and I've never heard from my committeemen. I don't even know who they are."

In that case, there would seem to be a need for a new, interested committeeman. It would probably be a good time to find someone else, or to run for the office yourself.

How do you go about it?

First, you must get your name on the ballot. Your division's two committeemen are elected to two-year terms. Candidates' names go on the primary election ballot in the even-numbered years. In Philadelphia, both major parties provide for two persons to be elected regardless of sex. In the surrounding counties, party rules specify the election of one man and one woman.

It is not hard to have your name placed on the

ballot. Only 10 signatures of registered party members in your division are required and there is no filing fee. Petitions for this office can be obtained, without charge, from your County Board of Elections.

Before you file your nomination petition, however, you may want to advise your ward leader that you plan to run. The reason for this will be made more clear in the next chapter.

After filing your nomination petition, you should get around and meet the party members in your division. Tell them why you are running and ask for their votes. You can get the name, address and party affiliation of all the voters in your neighborhood by asking for the Official Street List for your division. It is printed from voter registration records and is available to candidates.

When election day comes, you will, of course, hope to win, but remember that even with your name on the ballot and some campaigning behind you, you still may lose. Nevertheless, it is worth trying.

Between elections, if there should be a vacancy in the post of committeeman, you might ask to be appointed to the office. It is the privilege of the ward leader to make this appointment, so he's the person to see.

Let's say you are now a committeeman; what are your duties?

Your first task, as we have seen, is to produce a big party turnout in your division at election time. There are several steps by which you can achieve this:

- **Voter registrations.** Several months before an election, you should canvass your division to find

He who will beef loudest later on



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out how many registered voters on your Official Street List have moved away or died. You report the results to the Registration Division so its records can be updated.

You also are expected to find persons who are not registered, and persuade them to sign up (hopefully in your party!). Besides adults who have never registered to vote, you may find persons who have recently moved into the neighborhood, just reached voting age, or have become naturalized American citizens. You may also try to persuade

persons registered Non-Partisan, or as a member of another party, to come over to yours.

The Registration Division helps you sign up new voters several months before each election by sending registration personnel to your neighborhood at certain times. They may set up a registration booth in a supermarket, neighborhood school or at another location open to the public.

- **Campaign activities.** You will be responsible for distributing party campaign literature in your division. You might work with your ward leader in helping arrange and publicize any receptions or rallies given for party candidates in your area.

Just before election day, you will be expected to visit or phone the party members in your division to remind them to vote. If a voter needs a babysitter or transportation to get to the polls, you may arrange it. If he is a shut-in or expects to be out of the city on election day, you may suggest he request an absentee ballot.

Committeemen often enlist the help of residents of particular streets within their divisions. These aides, referred to as "block captains," assist the committeeman by keeping him abreast of the moving-out of families and moving-in of new neighbors, those coming of voting age, marriages and returning servicemen. Committeemen using this system are quickly advised of changes occurring in their neighborhood and thus can be more effective in the administration of party affairs. These block captains are often asked by the com-

mitteemen to serve as polling place watchers or to help to get out the vote on election days.

- **Election Day duties.** Primary and election days represent the culmination of all the activities of a committeeman. He must get the laggards out to vote, he often provides transportation to the polls for the sick or elderly, acts as a watcher for his party to prevent fraud or unauthorized persons from voting and to examine the voting machines prior to opening the polls and be present at the tabulation of the returns in the evening and also make a copy of the election returns for the party files.

Your second duty as a committeeman, as was mentioned before, is to relay the wishes and needs of your neighbors to the party hierarchy.

If your neighborhood has problems that need attention from City Hall you are expected to go to your ward leader or the proper city officials for action. Your neighbors may request a traffic light at a dangerous intersection, a street to be made one-way, or street repair. They may want a public playground, or to protest a zoning violation such as commercial activity in a residential neighborhood.

Also, if your neighbors favor or oppose a bill in City Council, the State Legislature or Congress—a zoning change, air pollution control, etc.—you should carry their feelings to your ward leader or the lawmakers involved.

As a committeeman you participate in the selection of a ward leader. This process will be discussed in the next chapter.

There is another task—unofficial but in some areas of the city a big boost to the committeeman's results on election day. This is the variety of personal favors a committeeman may do for his constituents.

A neighbor may ask you, as his committeeman, to approach public officials in the hopes of getting a college scholarship for his child. The family of someone who has been arrested on a minor charge may ask you to help them get the signature of a Judge on a copy of the charge, so the suspect can be released. You might be asked by a neighbor to help him, through the party hierarchy, obtain a patronage position on the public payroll.

A number of committeemen get patronage appointments because of their service to the party. Such plums are easier to harvest when the committeeman's party is in power.

Those are your activities as a division committeeman. Now let's look at your role as a representative of your Executive Committee.

The Ward Leader

About a month after the primary in which you are elected a committeeman, you will be called to a reorganization meeting of your ward. Technically it is called the Ward Executive Committee Meeting.

There are 66 wards in Philadelphia, each containing 25 to 30 election divisions. Like divisions, wards are established by law, with consideration usually given to population and natural and man-made physical barriers.

The most important job awaiting you at the ward reorganization meeting is to participate in the election of a ward leader.

Though the ward leader draws no salary, his political power in terms of job patronage and voice in party affairs is vastly greater than that of the committeeman.

Like the committeeman, the ward leader may serve an indefinite number of consecutive terms, and many ward leaders have held their posts for years.

The ward leader may be a committeeman in the ward, but party rules do not require it. He might be an elected public official: some city leaders, local legislators and congressmen continue in their posts as ward leaders. Or he might hold a responsible appointive position—especially if his party is in power in the city or state.

When you, at your ward reorganization meeting,

approach the election of ward leader, you will find that the most prominent candidate for this office will almost surely be the incumbent—the person still in power from a previous election. In many cases, he will be the only candidate, because no one is challenging his bid for re-election.

And even when he is met with opponents, he can draw on an arsenal of powers in his fight to defeat them:

- He can usually prevent potential foes from having any vote at all in the election for ward leader. This is because a committeeman gains admittance to and participation in the ward reorganization meeting by showing his certificate of election, issued by the Board of Elections. A duly elected committeeman, however, can be denied the right to participate, if his allegiance to the party is challenged.

When this happens, both major parties specify that a contest committee be appointed to look into the matter—with the ward leader appointing the members. So by skillfully choosing the contest committee members the ward leader can, if he so desires, prevent recognition of a committeeman he feels is a threat to his power.

If the committeeman does lose his post in this way, or is removed for any other reason, the ward leader has the right under party rules of appointing a replacement. The ward leader also fills committeeman vacancies caused by death or resignation.

The ward leader controls all patronage positions within his ward. Since he has prob-

ably given many of these public payroll jobs to committeemen, he feels he can count on their votes when he seeks re-election as ward leader. Committeemen fear that if they vote against him, but then he wins anyway, they will lose their jobs.

Other committeemen may be hoping for patronage jobs, so will support the probable winner—the incumbent—with an eye to the future.

- Before each election, the ward leader is usually given campaign funds from the party treasury, which he distributes to his committeemen. If a committeeman has fallen into his disfavor, the ward leader can punish him by withholding his share of funds. Similarly, if a ward leader should fall from grace with the city leadership, he will find his campaign funds cut off. The city leaders may even choose to bypass the ward leader and recognize another from the ward on all party matters.

Of course a ward leader who worked closely and honestly with his committeemen over the years may have won their respect and friendship. In that case, they would be loyal to him against the challenge of a newcomer.

On the other hand, perhaps the ward leader is not admired by many of his committeemen. You may feel there is a need for change or reform in ward policies, and even a chance to replace the leader.

With the previously mentioned odds against you, your wisest course is first to win acceptance as a voting member of the ward committee. Then you and other



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committeemen eager for change can try internally to bring about such changes.

Let's suppose you rally other change-minded committeemen to your cause and your candidacy, and you emerge as the new ward leader.

Besides all your new privileges, what will be your duties?

- You are administrator and morale-builder for your ward.

You must organize all party activities in your ward, such as voter registration, campaign events, distribution of literature and election-day activities.

You may be asked to advise your party

leaders on the makeup and interests of the people in your ward. When party candidates come into your ward to campaign, they may want to gear their political appeal to this information.

You must stay in touch with your 50 or 60 committeemen, keeping them operating efficiently and in turn listening to their needs. As we saw in the chapter on committeemen, the desires of their neighbors for stoplights or playgrounds, as well as their feelings towards a zoning or tax bill, are often conveyed to the authorities or lawmakers through you, the ward leader. Just as the committeeman's voice is considered louder than the individual voter's, so is the ward leader's voice thought to be louder than the committeeman's.

Also, when a constituent asks a committeeman for a favor—a scholarship or a patronage job—the committeeman will bring the request to you.

You will be assisted in your ward duties by other ward officers: a ward chairman, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms. These officials are also elected at the ward reorganization meeting.

You will be expected to call about one meeting a month of the ward executive committee (the committeemen in your ward), with additional meetings just before an election. You can meet in ward headquarters or some other suitable place.

- Your second duty is to act as a member of the city committee. As ward leader, you are your committeemen's elected representative in this body. (In

fact, your actual title, though little used, is "city committeeman.")

As a member of the city committee, you are involved in the endorsement of the party organization's candidates for citywide offices such as mayor or district attorney. This role will be discussed in the next chapter.

Similarly, party rules give the ward leaders the privilege of choosing the organization candidates for the various legislative districts of which their wards are a part. Thus, if a City Council seat is to be filled, the ward leaders in that councilmanic district meet and endorse a candidate. The same is true in elections for the state House of Representatives and Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. That is your job as ward leader; now what is the other duty of your office—that of city committeeman?

The City Committee

As a ward leader, you join the 65 others in your party to make up the city committee.

Within a week after your election as ward leader, you will be called to an organization meeting of the city committee (known in other parts of the state as the county committee). To gain admission, you are required to present a certificate indicating your election as your ward's representative. This document must have been attested to by two officers of your ward committee, usually the ward chairman and secretary. As in the ward meeting, there is provision for challenging city committee members, and appointing a contest committee to look into the charges.

If the city's party headquarters has a room large enough, the city committee usually meets there. When more space is needed, center city hotel facilities are used.

Your first task at the reorganization meeting is to elect—or re-elect—a city chairman (known elsewhere as a county chairman). He does not have to be a member of the city committee. He may hold a high elective or appointive office. If he is not receiving a salary from public office, he usually is paid for his services as city chairman from party funds.

If a vacancy should arise in the office of city chair-

man between even-year elections, the ward leaders meet in city committee and choose a new one.

At the regular reorganization meeting, you also elect vice-chairmen, a secretary, treasurer and other officers.

Foremost among the privileges granted by party rules to the city committee is the endorsement of organization candidates for citywide posts such as mayor, district attorney, controller and judge.

What do we mean by "organization candidate"?

Suppose a high city office—say that of controller—is to be filled in the next November general election. You decide to seek that office.

Before you face the opponents from the other parties, you must win your own party's nomination. To do this, you enter the party primary. In your campaigning, you will try to win the votes of party members throughout the city. If you lose on primary election day, you are out of the race. If you win, you are automatically your party's nominee, ready to face the nominees from the other parties in the November general election.

By entering the primary on your own, as an "independent" within the party, you must garner the thousands of votes it will take to win the nomination. Others have done it.

But your chances would be much greater if you could win the backing of the party hierarchy or at least a segment of it. If from all those who enter the primary, the party leaders choose you to be the party's endorsed candidate, you will have awesome advantages:

- You have the party treasury pouring money into

your campaign—for handbills, television and radio time, etc.

- The party nearly always prints up a “sample ballot,” which shows the position on the voting machines of the party’s endorsed candidates (and no others). These “sample ballots” are distributed near the polls before and on election day, and voters are allowed to take them into the voting booth. As the party’s endorsed candidate, your name would appear on this sheet.
- You have the help on election day of all the “party faithfuls”—ward leaders, committeemen and thousands of voters loyal to the party organization. They will work and vote for you rather than the independent candidates, even though all candidates are in the same party.

This potent use of party organization and long-built-up voter loyalty is commonly referred to as “the machine.” It is usually hard to beat.

It is a little easier to beat, however, in an election for the State Legislature or for City Council, rather than in a citywide election. This is because in your own area of the city, you are apt to be fairly well-known; campaign expenses will be on a smaller scale; and you and your workers can reach a larger percentage of the voters involved.

Though the endorsement of an organization candidate is by rule the privilege of the city committee, the actual screening of candidates may be done by others in the party. Its top local leaders or a group of its prom-



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inent citizens may have a voice in selecting the candidates to be endorsed.

Another task delegated to the city committee is to recommend persons for appointment to federal, state and local judgeships, and other important and usually high-salaried positions at all levels of government. Again, the candidates are screened by the party leaders or a small group specifically named for that purpose.

The city committee also is given the duty of determining citywide policy for its party, although details are

usually handled by a small group within the party and endorsed by the full committee.

Raising funds and handling party finances are also delegated to a smaller group. Fund-raising dinners and outright gifts by the party faithful are the two most often-used means of nourishing the party treasury, on the city, state and national level.

In Philadelphia, committeemen and ward leaders who hold patronage jobs are expected to buy tickets to the major party dinners. There are usually two such affairs annually—one prior to the primary and the other before the general election.

If the job holders do not buy tickets to these money-raising dinners, they are expected to make outright contributions to the party. But occasionally a patronage employee is reluctant to buy a ticket or make a contribution. Through the party hierarchy pressure is then applied, with spoken or unspoken threat that if he doesn't kick in, he may lose his job. The practice is referred to as "macing." Macing is illegal, but the person caught in the squeeze is not in a very good position to bring it to light or start action against the offenders. Thus, this illegal and insidious practice is very difficult to root out and eliminate.

When there is a vacancy on the city committee, the ward committee effected holds a special election and fills the unexpired term of its ward leader. However, it has happened in the past, and could again, that a powerful clique within the city committee will bring sufficient

pressure on the ward's committeemen to bring about the election of someone favored by the clique.

In the city committee itself, there is always the danger that one person or small group will use its influence to gain control over candidate selection and all other functions of the committee. There is also the chance that several factions may compete fiercely for power within the city committee, to the glee and amusement of opposing parties.

The State Committee

At the same time that you vote for your two division committeemen (at the primary election in even-numbered years), you also, as a party member, have the right to choose two state committeemen.

These two, sitting on the state committee, are your party representatives who participate in the selection of the party organization candidate for governor and other statewide offices.

The state committee also adopts the platform on which these candidates will run and helps to raise the funds for their campaigns.

Another task of this body is to select some of the delegates to the Presidential nominating convention. It also chooses the state's two national committeemen.

Because of a large and far-flung membership, however, the state committee of each major party usually delegates most of these duties to subcommittees.

The state committee also elects the state chairman, but the choice is often greatly influenced by the party's gubernatorial candidate.

The state committees of both major parties have somewhat over 100 members each.

Two state committeemen—a man and a woman—are chosen in each of the state's 50 senatorial districts.

In addition, each county or part of one that shares a senator with another county (or counties) may elect at

least one state committeeman of its own. This delegate may be of either sex.

Nine of Pennsylvania's 50 senatorial districts* are in Philadelphia; from these nine districts, 18 State Committeemen are elected.

Most meetings of the state committee are held in Harrisburg (where both major parties maintain offices and staffs). The scheduling of meetings convenient to all is difficult because of the many members and the distance some must travel to get to the capital.

Therefore, party rules permit proxy voting. If a member cannot attend a meeting he can designate another person from his party to go. The substitute must produce a written proxy from the elected member before he can participate in the meeting.

You or any other registered voter in your party can seek election as a state committeeman.

The person backed by the ward leaders in his senatorial district—or by at least a majority of them—has usually won the post. But independents have on occasion bucked the regular party forces and been elected.

*Of these, the sixth district includes part of Philadelphia's Northeast and a portion of Bucks County, while the eighth district extends from West Philadelphia into Delaware County.

Convention Delegates

*"THE GREAT COMMONWEALTH OF
PENN-SYL-VA-NI-A CASTS TWEN-
TY-THREE VOTES FOR _____,
NINE-TEEN VOTES FOR _____,
E-LE-VEN VOTES FOR _____
..."*

We sit in suspense and listen for these weighty figures every fourth Summer. We turn on TV and watch our national convention delegates, huddled around a Pennsylvania placard in a vast convention hall, do the job we sent them there for—to cast their votes for a nominee who will represent the party in the 50-state battle for the Presidency of the United States.

We may cheer or groan as the Pennsylvania delegation chairman gives the tally. But if we are groaning, it may be partly our own fault.

We should look back to the Spring primary. It was then that we voted for our delegates and alternates to the national convention. Did we work to get people on the ballot who supported our own choice for President—or whose political beliefs were enough like ours that we could trust them to choose wisely? Or did we

just let the party organization's favorites run unopposed, as they have in some areas for so many years?

We, as registered party members, could run for convention delegate or alternate.

To get on the ballot, it takes a nomination petition and filing fee. We must also be prepared, however, to be free from our jobs the week of the convention, and pay our own transportation and living expenses. (Sometimes the party helps with these expenses, especially for its organization delegates.) Convention delegates are in office only during the convention, and receive no salary.

We should also realize that the power of the party organization is strong in this contest as in others, and the independent will have an uphill fight.

Though the larger percentage of Pennsylvania's delegates are elected by the voters, others are named by the state committee. Thus high city officials and other party leaders become part of the delegation without going on the primary ballot.

Presidential candidates may enter the Spring primary in Pennsylvania, but the results do not bind the convention delegates to vote for the winners. The Presidential primary and the national conventions are being studied by the U.S. Senate and other groups; therefore, some modifications might be forthcoming in the near future.

Besides nominating a Presidential candidate, our convention delegates also, as we have seen on TV, nominate a vice presidential candidate (usually the Presidential candidate's personal choice) and approve a platform. When a dispute occurs on the seating of other

Get acquainted on election day



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delegations, the Pennsylvania delegates have a voice in a solution.

The responsibility of apportioning the number of convention delegates for each state belongs to the national committee. Both major parties base the size of state delegations on congressional representation. Every state is permitted representation for each United States Senator and Congressman it elects. Bonuses are then

allocated on such factors as whether the party in that state elected its gubernatorial choice, whether it won for its Presidential candidates at the last election, whether it elected a majority of the congressional members and so on. The basic formula does not change, but the bonus factors can change from one convention to the next.

Recent Democratic National Conventions have had approximately twice the number of delegates as Republican Conventions. This is because Democratic delegates cast one-half votes while Republican delegates cast full ones.

Elected alternate delegates, in either party, cannot vote at conventions unless they are replacing a delegate who could not attend.

National Committeeman

Once the party, through the delegates, has chosen the candidates for President and Vice President, the National Committee swings into action to coordinate the campaign and raise the enormous amounts of money required.

The committee usually puts money into each of the 50 states, but if state leaders fall into disfavor with national headquarters, they could find their national campaign funds reduced, cut off entirely or channeled through an ad hoc committee.

In Presidential as well as congressional election years, the committee also gives its energy and money-raising efforts to party candidates for the U.S. House and Senate—always with the goal of increasing the party's representation in those bodies.

Even on the local level, candidates and party officials may turn to the National Committee for advice on registration and campaign strategies.

This body also is the one responsible for choosing the date and site of its party's Presidential nominating convention. It apportions the number of delegates to each state, and attends to the "housekeeping" chores of the convention, such as security and press accreditation.

The National Committee is composed of two members from each state. The term is four years. One man

and one woman are chosen by the State Committee at its Spring meeting every Presidential year.

At the national convention that summer, after the Presidential and vice presidential candidates have been nominated, the national committeemen from the 50 states meet to choose the party's national chairman.

The person looked upon with favor by the Presidential candidate is nearly always rubber-stamped by the committee as its elected chairman. The theory is that the national chairman should, in such an important election year, be a confidant of the Presidential candidate, or at least someone who will work harmoniously with him.

When a vacancy occurs in the office of national chairman, even if it is not a presidential election year, the President or the out-party's defeated Presidential candidate still wields strong influence in the new selection.

National committeemen are not paid for their services, but the national chairman is usually a salaried officer of the party.

The Electoral College

When you cast your vote for President of the United States, your vote does not go directly to your candidate, but is filtered through the Electoral College.

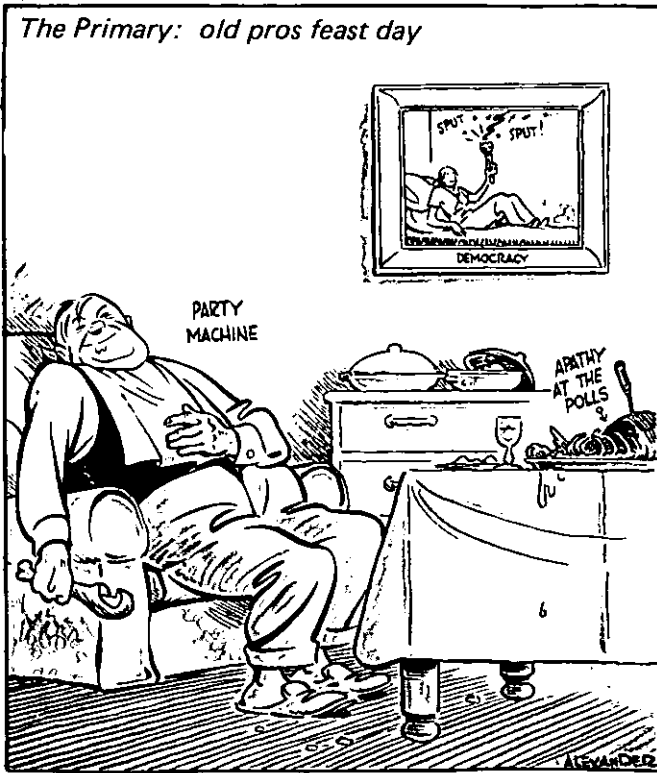
Though your candidate's name appears on the ballot, you are not actually voting for him, but for his electors in your state.

Suppose most of the voters in Pennsylvania favor your candidate (and thus vote for his electors). Then it is all his electors (and none of his opponent's) who end up casting Pennsylvania's votes for President.

So if candidate A wins 51 percent of Pennsylvania's votes, and candidate B wins 49 percent, the entire Pennsylvania vote goes to candidate A. Candidate B, despite those hundreds of thousands of votes cast for him, gets no Pennsylvania votes at all.

This system, established by the U.S. Constitution, has long been under attack. Now some experienced politicians and political scientists say they believe Americans are well-enough informed to elect their President by direct popular vote. Steps are being taken by which the Constitution may be amended to bring this change.

Meanwhile, how does the Electoral College work? Each state is allocated a certain number of electors,



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equal to the number of members it has in the Congress (one elector for each U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative).

Each Presidential nominee submits a list of persons to act as his electors in the state. Those chosen for this honor are usually dedicated party workers, campaign contributors or others whom the party wants to reward or honor. Many electors are not known personally to



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the Presidential candidate, but are recommended by the state committee.

After the state's November election returns have been counted, the winning group of electors (the favored candidate's group) meets somewhere in the state and cast their votes. Their certified ballots are then sent to the President of the U.S. Senate, who opens them in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Electors, though they are expected to vote for the

candidate who selected them, are not by law required to do so. Thus if a third-party candidate, for instance, wishes to throw his electoral votes to another candidate, he can do so—and cause a major upheaval in the traditional system.

If no Presidential candidate gets the necessary majority of the total number of electoral votes assigned throughout the nation, then the election is thrown into the U.S. House of Representatives. In such event each state delegation in the House gets only one vote.

Then, the party controlling a majority of the state delegations in the House of Representatives has the advantage in electing its nominee as president.

Your Party... ...and You

You have been given a view of the political party system—from the neighborhood committeeman to national chairman. Surprisingly, it is one of the most neglected institutions in the United States.

Look closely at the political system at the neighborhood level and you will find that very few voters consider themselves members of a political party in the true sense. Even fewer attend meetings or get actively involved in party affairs.

As you have seen, that leaves the election of party officers, the choosing of candidates and the setting of policy in the hands of those voters who are willing to assume the responsibility. The party ends up, therefore, far too often representing the views of those few—and not the desires of the majority of its members.

Then, since it's the party that largely cultivates and nourishes our elected representatives, it's no wonder we find a gulf between ourselves and the lawmakers who affect our lives.

Another unfortunate result of our silence in party affairs is that it has permitted politics to get a bad reputation.

'What is a nice person like you doing in politics'?' is a question sometimes asked of the earnest party worker or candidate. This attitude plays into the hands of party bosses, for the fewer concerned voters who

Speak up in party affairs, the easier it is for a boss to jealously guard his power.

So if you want to make your government representatives think about you when they vote on zoning, schools, taxes and the other crucial issues, why not take a part in party affairs?

When was the last time you discussed party matters with your committeemen? If your committeemen are doing the job you expect of them, why not offer to give them a hand? If, on the other hand, you feel they are incompetent, insensitive or unworthy of your support, you have seen how to go about replacing them. If you do not want to become a candidate yourself, you could encourage and support one of your neighbors.

The cost in money is nominal. The largest investment comes in time. And you will find that your efforts with and on behalf of your neighbors can be a very gratifying experience. What you may accomplish on the inside could surprise you.

Another way to plunge into party affairs is to join the campaign of a candidate you like. Volunteers are always welcomed.

Or if—before you leap—you wish to learn more about the inside workings of party and government affairs, you can join a citizens' group. There are various Democratic and Republican clubs, political reform organizations, the League of Women Voters, neighborhood organizations.

With more interest and commitment on the part of you and your fellow party members, needed changes

Your Party . . .

and reforms in the party and in public policies can almost certainly be accomplished.

Why not participate in the affairs of your party, and make your voice louder in government?

Additional information can be obtained by calling or writing the Committee of Seventy, 1420 Walnut Street, Suite 910, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. (KI 5-0104).

... and You

THE COMMITTEE OF SEVENTY

1420 Walnut Street Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19102 (215) KI 5-0104