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The United
AMERICAN

A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

THE TRAIL THAT LEADS TO RESPONSIBLE
POLITICAL GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA

A PRIMARY ELECTION may not mean much to a great many people who proclaim themselves Americans of a non-partisan brand of political independence, but the man whose political convictions cannot square with any principle of any party is clearly out of step with most Americans who believe that the political party, whatever its name, is the indispensable vehicle to political government in the United States. The citizen who registers independent of party may feel his own importance; but, when he shuts himself out of the direct primaries, he simply demonstrates that his political intelligence is below par. The primaries are the intelligent American's hall of selection, his initial means to a popular choice of representatives--the gateway to government in this republic. The independent non-partisan voter who cannot participate in the primaries must, in the general election, choose either between the primary nominees, or vote for some unknown independent entrant who has little or no chance of being elected. He belongs to that particular type of citizenry who have lost their political bearings, who spend their energy chasing vagaries and notions, who are unable to adjust their political views with others, and who display a deplorable lack of training in the art of American citizenship.

The instrument to government in America is the party. Call it what you will, but it is an indispensable institution which will and must function if popular government is to survive. It has been the intelligent American's means to responsible government since the Declaration of Independence, and since the wheels for a limited democracy were set in motion. The demagogue's democracy, with plenty of mob rule and mob action, is the alternative. Your conscientious participation in the partisan primaries is essential to sustain principled government in America.

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