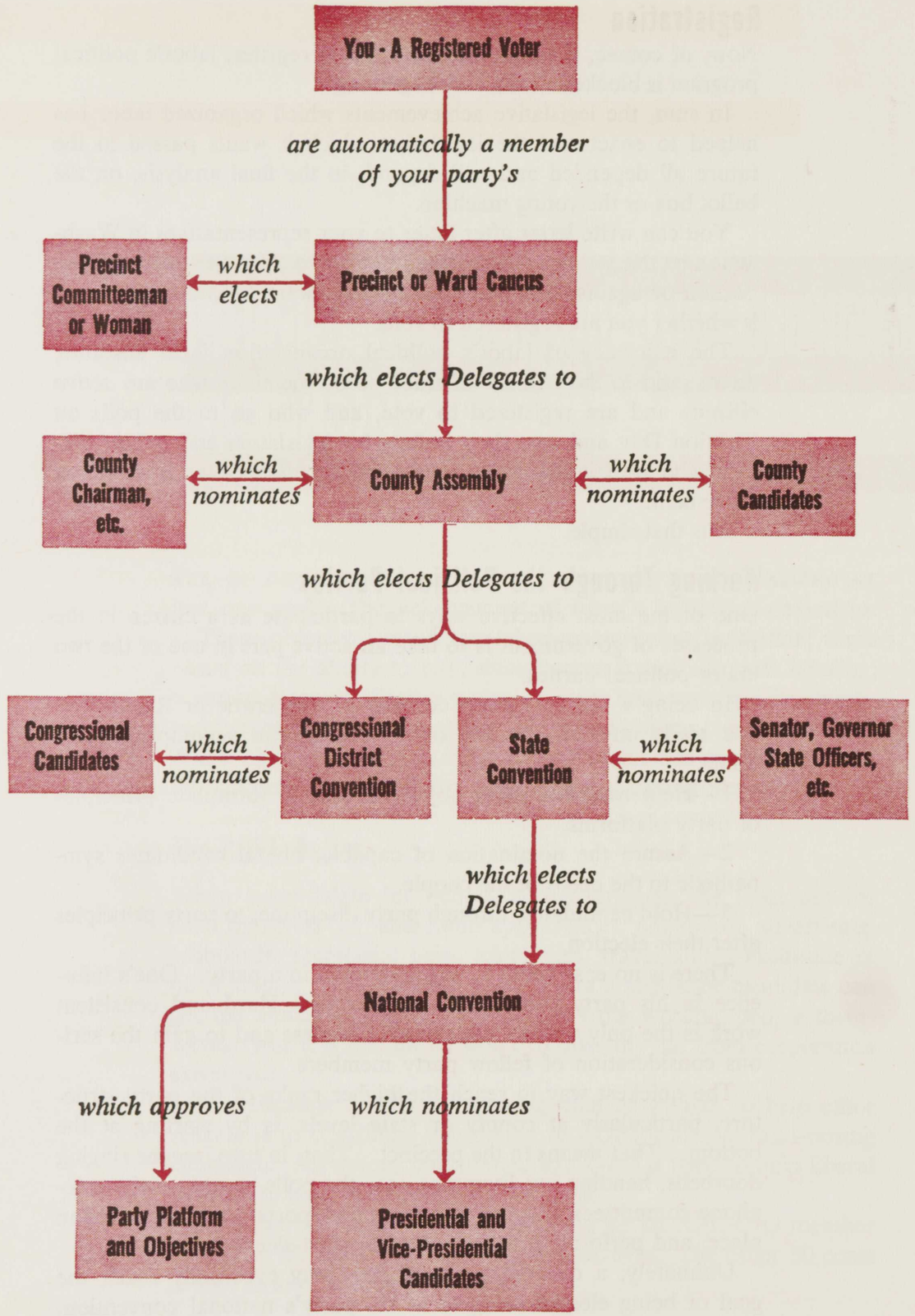
STRUCTURE OF A POLITICAL PARTY



4 THE END RESULT

LABOR'S ENDEAVORS IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD HAVE BOTH a negative and a positive aspect.

THE NEGATIVE Big Business Propaganda

Big Businessmen for years have screamed about what they like to call "labor's war chest." They try to make the public believe that the AFL-CIO has a vast treasury of union dues money stashed away some place into which it dips to buy elections.

What are the facts? According to figures officially reported to the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, as required by law, *all* of the *32* labor organizations which took part in the 1958 campaign spent only about one third more than did *one* Republican committee. These 32 union groups spent, in dollars and cents, $1,828,777 compared with $1,349,553 which the Republican National Committee spent.

But *all* Republican organizations spent a grand total of $4,657,652, or $2,828,875 more than *all* labor groups.

Indeed, trade unionists contributed only some 20 per cent of all money spent by all groups on the '58 elections.

As every union member knows, every single, solitary penny which unions spend on elections is contributed *voluntarily* by trade unionists. Unions are prohibited by law from contributing treasury money to Federal election campaigns—and the press and politicians who say treasury money is used in such campaigns have never cited a single valid instance of this to the proper authorities. They just talk about it for propaganda effect.

Recently, industrialists and other Big Businessmen have been encouraging the executives of their corporations to "get into politics." By this, they mean becoming more active on the precinct and ward level.

Organized labor has always encouraged everybody to be active politically. When more individuals take an active interest in public service, the better our democracy will work.

But if the industrialists and Big Businessmen try to *force* their junior executives and other company employees to become politically active merely to try to stymie labor's aims and goals, they are decidedly on the wrong track.