

8 2 0 8 0 2 0 2 5 0

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office  
 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463  
 Phone: Local 523-4065 Toll Free 800-424-9530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 JULY 12, 1982

CONTACT: FRED EILAND  
 SHARON SNYDER

## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION RELEASES PAC FIGURES

WASHINGTON -- The number of political action committees (PAC's) has continued to grow during the past six months, but at a slower rate.

Figures released today by the FEC, for the first six months of 1982, indicate the number of PAC's in existence increased by 8%. The average six-month growth rate since 1978, has been 10%.

Numbering 3,149 at the end of June 1982, the number of PAC's now in existence is five times the number that were active at the end of 1974, just prior to the implementation of the 1974 Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act - legislation which outlined for the first time the legal parameters of PAC activity.

Yearly increases, since 1976, have averaged 20%, with the exception of 1979-80, when the growth actually increased by 28%. The most dramatic increase was between 1974 and 1976, when PAC ranks swelled by 88%.

PAC's are viewed by many campaign finance experts as a dominant force in politics. Their numbers and the amount of money they spend in Federal campaigns have continued to increase with each election cycle.

According to FEC data, the "non-connected" category of PAC's shows the greatest growth in 1981. That category includes ideological committees and committees sponsored by issue groups.

Information on the amount of money raised and spent by PAC's during 1981 and the first three months of 1982 was released last month by the FEC. Updated figures on PAC activity for the 1981-82 election cycle will be released in the future.



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
 PRESS OFFICE  
 (202) 523-4065  
 (800) 424-9530

JULY 1982

"PAC" GROWTH--FROM 1974

COMMITTEE TYPE	12/31/74	11/24/75 <sup>1</sup>	5/10/76 <sup>2</sup>	12/31/76	12/31/77	12/31/78	8/79	12/31/79	7/1/80	12/31/80	7/1/81	12/31/81	7/1/82	12/31/82	7/1/83	12/31/83	7/1/84
CORPORATE	89	139	294	433	550	784	884	949	1,106	1,204	1,251	1,327	1,415				
LABOR	201	226	246	224	234	217	226	240	255	297	303	318	350				
TRADE/MEMBERSHIP HEALTH	318	357	452	489	438	451	481	512	642	574	577	608	613				
NON-CONNECTED					110	165	209	250	312	378	445	539	644				
COOPERATIVE					8	12	13	17	23	42	38	41	45				
CORPORATION W/O STOCK					20	24	27	32	41	56	64	68	82				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,653</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>3,149</b>				

<sup>1</sup>On November 24, 1975, the Commission issued Advisory Opinion 1975-23 "SUNPAC."

<sup>2</sup>On May 11, 1976, the President signed the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976, P.L. 94-283.