

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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NEW FEC INFO ON 1984 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

MEMORANDUM TO EDITORS AND CORRESPONDENTS:

For those of you covering the 1984 Presidential campaigns, you know that poring over stacks of financial reports can often be cumbersome and frustrating. Many of the figures required by the forms and the election law are not the ones reporters need to tell the story of how much money has been raised and spent.

The Federal Election Commission has designed a new computer program which will help you in this regard. The program will provide a concise, campaign-to-date summary of all campaign finance reports filed by each Presidential campaign. In addition, all figures will be adjusted to show NET receipts and expenditures, both in total and within certain financial categories. The computer program will list, for example, contributions from individuals minus any refunds made to those contributors; or expenditures made minus any refunds or rebates.

Instead of wading through numerous reports trying to ascertain if you have all of the correct figures, and without having to calculate totals minus offset to those totals, you can simply refer to the enclosed computer printout.

Keep in mind, however, that these computer reports are only summary figures and are not a substitute for review of reports on file with the Commission, particularly if you are looking for information on specific contributors or vendors. Nevertheless, we feel you will find this new summary extremely helpful. In addition, there will be monthly Reports On Financial Activity for Presidential Pre-Nomination Campaigns beginning in early 1984, which will provide extensive financial summary information.

At present, information is available for all campaigns from the date of their inception through September 30, 1983. The figures will not change unless the campaigns file amended reports. The next compilation will be made available to reporters within a few days after all January 31 Year-End reports have been filed and computerized.

We are also enclosing three charts on the amounts of money in the Tax Check-Off Fund and the payments made to 1976 and 1980 Presidential primary, general and convention recipients.

Please feel free to call us with any questions you might have. The telephone number is (202) 523-4065, or toll free (800) 424-9530.

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