

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

PR



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DECREASE IN REGISTERED PACs REPORTED BY FEC

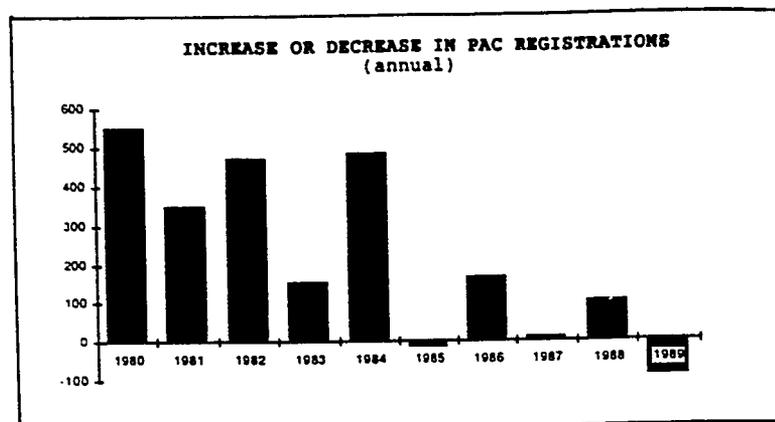
WASHINGTON -- Political action committee registrations took the sharpest drop of the decade pushing PAC numbers to their lowest point in more than two years, according to a Federal Election Commission survey taken at the end of 1989.

As of December 31, 1989, the 4,178 federally registered PACs represented declines of 56 committees since mid-1989 and 90 committees since PAC registration peaked in December 1988. PACs, which are not candidate or party committees, must register and report to the FEC when their financial activity exceeds \$1,000 during a calendar year.

Two distinct patterns emerge from an analysis of the number of PACs in existence during the 1980's. From December 1979, through 1984, registered PACs more than doubled, increasing by 2,009 committees. However, during the last five-year period, 1984-1989, there was a net gain of 169 committees, only a four percent increase.

The largest category of PACs continues to be corporate (1,796) followed by non-connected (1,060), trade/membership/health (777), labor (369), corporation without stock (137), and cooperative (59). Dramatic increases in the registration of corporate and non-connected committees fueled the overall rise in PACs during the decade. However, although all types of PACs increased during the 1980's, the greatest proportional increases were in non-connected (329%), corporation without stock (348%), and cooperative (241%).

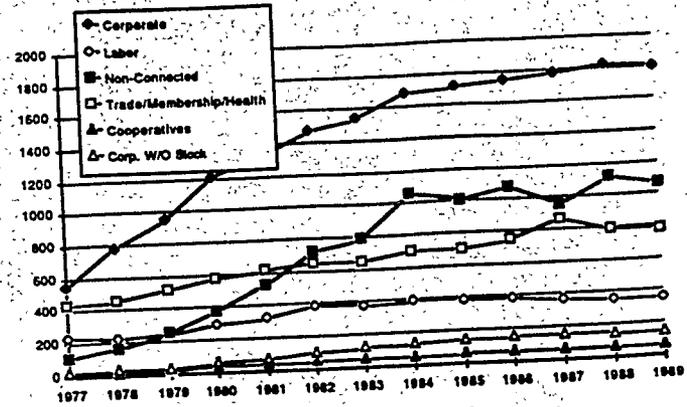
A caution - this release concerns only a count of federally registered PACs. Registration does not necessarily imply financial activity. For information on PAC financial activity see FEC Press Release, Oct. 31, 1989.



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NUMBER OF NON-PARTY COMMITTEES BY TYPE
(annual)



FAC GROWTH - FROM 1974
(semi-annual)

JANUARY 1990

Date	Committee Type						Total
	Corporate	Labor	Trade/ Membership/ Health	Non- Connected	Cooperative	Corporation Without Stock	
12/31/74	89	261	318*				608
11/24/75 ^{1/}	139	226	357*				722
05/18/76 ^{2/}	294	246	452*				992
12/31/76	433	224	489*				1,146
12/31/77	550	234	438	118	8	20	1,360
12/31/78	785	217	453	162	12	24	1,633
08/00/79	885	226	483	206	13	27	1,840
12/31/79	950	240	514	247	17	32	2,000
07/01/80	1,107	255	544	309	23	41	2,279
12/31/80	1,206	297	576	374	42	56	2,551
07/01/81	1,253	303	579	441	38	64	2,678
12/31/81	1,329	318	614	531	41	68	2,901
07/01/82	1,417	350	627	628	47	82	3,149
12/31/82	1,469	380	649	723	47	103	3,371
07/01/83	1,514	379	664	740	50	114	3,461
12/31/83	1,538	378	643	793	51	122	3,525
07/01/84	1,642	361	662	940	53	125	3,803
12/31/84	1,642	394	698	1,053	52	130	4,009
07/01/85	1,687	393	694	1,039	54	133	4,000
12/31/85	1,710	388	695	1,003	54	142	3,992
07/01/86	1,734	386	707	1,063	56	146	4,092
12/31/86	1,744	384	745	1,077	56	151	4,157
07/01/87	1,762	377	795	967	56	152	4,109
12/31/87	1,775	364	865	957	59	145	4,165
07/01/88	1,806	355	766	1,064	60	143	4,196
12/31/88	1,816	354	786	1,115	59	138	4,268
07/01/89	1,802	349	831	1,051	58	143	4,234
12/31/89	1,796	349	777	1,060	59	137	4,178

^{1/} On November 24, 1975, the Commission issued Advisory Opinion 1975-23 "SUNFAC".
^{2/} On May 11, 1976, the President signed the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976, P.L. 94-283.
 * For the years 1974-1976, these numbers represent all other political committees...no further categorization is available.

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