

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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

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CONTACT: FRED EILAND  
 SHARON SNYDER

## PAC'S INCREASE AT DECLINING RATE

WASHINGTON - The Federal Election Commission released new figures today which show that the number of political action committees, PAC's, continues to grow.

However, the overall growth rate has slowed from an average of 21% per year to 14% for 1981.

Numbering 2,901 at the end of 1981, 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.

Figures released by the FEC in July 1981, showed a 5% growth rate for the first six months of the year. The last six months of the year saw an increase of 8%. The six-month growth rate since 1978, has been 11-14%.

Yearly increases, since 1976, have hovered around 21%, with the exception of 1979-80, when the growth actually increased by 28%. The most dramatic increase was seen between 1974 and 1976, when PAC ranks swelled by 88%.

PAC's are viewed by many campaign finance experts as a predominant force in politics. Their numbers, as well as 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 increase. That category includes ideological committees and committees sponsored by particular issue groups.

A final report on the amount of money raised and spent by PAC's during the 1979-80 election cycle will be released by the FEC in the near future.



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## "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					
LABOR	201	226	246	224	234	217	226	240	255	297	303	318					
TRADE/MEMBERSHIP HEALTH	318	357	452	489	438	451	481	512	542	574	577	608					
NON-CONNECTED					110	165	209	250	312	378	445	539					
COOPERATIVE					8	12	13	17	23	42	38	41					
CORPORATION W/O STOCK					20	24	27	32	41	56	64	68					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,663</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>					

<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.