

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
DEBORAH STUTZ

FEC TO OFFER DIRECT ON-LINE COMPUTER SYSTEM ON SUBSCRIPTION BASIS

WASHINGTON--Direct on-line computer access to Federal Election Commission campaign finance data through a subscription service will be instituted by the Agency in September.

The program will operate in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act procedures.

This is a continuation of the Commission's efforts to expand public disclosure of campaign finance information filed with it by Federal candidates and political committees, those making independent expenditures and the communications costs of corporations and labor unions. The FEC is the only source of all those reports.

Query and retrieval of data representing Federal campaign finance information from both the 1983-84 and the 1985-86 election cycles will be available in either of two formats.

The first of these formats is geared for the subscriber who uses a micro computer, such as a P.C. Raw data will be "streamed" to the subscriber's computer in a form which will facilitate storing it on a floppy diskette or hard disk.

Initially, the types of information available in this form will include basic data on Federal candidates and Federally registered committees; political committee monies spent in support of or in opposition to candidates. As alternative variations are developed, they will be made available.

The second format which will be provided to the subscribers more closely parallels the indexes which currently are available at the FEC. These include: 1) an alphabetic listing of all political committees registered with the Commission; 2) an index providing a cross-reference to all records relating to an

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- 2 -

individual candidate, such as total receipts and disbursements, PAC and party contributions, independent expenditures and other party spending; 3) an index of each political committee, including its total receipts and disbursements; 4) an index of political committees which includes, among other things, total contributions to or expenditures on behalf of or against individual candidates; and 5) an index providing an alphabetic listing of individuals making contributions of \$500 or more to candidates, party committees and political action committees.

In mid-August the FEC will conduct a briefing for those who have expressed interest, to describe the scope of the on-line computer access program. Topics to be discussed will include detailed explanations of the data forms and the specific elements to be made available, cost, administrative arrangements and technical details related to the program.

Those interested should advise the FEC Freedom of Information Officer, 1325 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20463, telephone 523-4065, providing the name of the person to be contacted, address and telephone number. This information will enable the Commission to advise each interested person of the date, time and place of the August briefing.
