

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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## COMPUTER ENTRY OF PAC DATA TO CONTINUE

WASHINGTON--The Federal Election Commission will continue to computerize PAC contributions to federal candidates. In January, the Commission had considered discontinuing the program in response to budget cuts mandated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act. The decision was deferred for nearly five months, to determine if the agency's own staff could enter the information in a timely fashion without contracting outside support.

The Commission has voted to continue the data entry, feeling that the program has been reasonably successful. While the FEC considers its effort a success, the agency realizes the entry of itemized PAC data is not as timely as it was when the program received full funding, and much of the financial information on the '86 elections has yet to be filed. In order to handle the heavy volume of reports, the Commission will hire three additional data entry clerks for the remainder of the fiscal year. Funds for the temporary positions are available due to staff attrition.

Earlier this month the Commission announced the approval of a computer contract which will allow for the eventual restoration of computerized financial data from years prior to 1983. The FEC has been able to offer on-line access to computerized information only for the '84 and '86 election cycles since implementing the mandated budget cuts.

The agency continues to computerize a variety of information including total receipt and disbursement figures from the reports of candidate committees, party committees and PACs. Data from the second summary page of all committees' reports are also available through the FEC's computer system. For years prior to 1983, the information is available on microfilm.

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