

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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## FEC REPORTS ON BUSINESS AND LABOR SPENDING

WASHINGTON -- New figures have been released by the Federal Election Commission on the amounts being spent by business and labor groups to communicate with their employees and members on behalf of certain federal candidates. The figures reflect growing activity in an area generally overlooked in most studies on election spending.

Communications costs are those expenditures made by corporations, labor unions and incorporated membership organizations to promote candidates or to advocate their defeat. The costs are paid for with corporate or union treasury monies and are in addition to and separate from the contributions and independent expenditures made by the "PAC's" of the corporations, unions and membership groups. Reporting of such activity is done by the corporation, union or membership organization if costs exceed \$2,000 per election. These reports are also separate from "PAC" reports. There is no limit on the amounts which can be spent for partisan communications.

Corporations may target partisan communications to stockholders, executive and administrative personnel, and their families only. Labor unions and membership organizations may contact only members and their families. ("Select personnel/members")

Partisan communications include such activities as:

Distributing literature promoting a certain candidate or advocating his defeat (as long as the material is not a reproduction of any candidate's own literature);

Inviting a candidate to appear at a regularly scheduled meeting or event attended by select personnel/members;

Paying for phone banks to contact select personnel/members to urge them to vote for a particular candidate(s);

Conducting get-out-the-vote drives aimed at select personnel/members urging them to vote for a particular candidate(s).

Labor organizations have reported spending the most money (\$665,383) to contact their members in partisan efforts, most of it spent in the Presidential primaries. No corporate communications have yet been reported. Only two membership organizations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Rifle Association, have made significant payments in this area: \$105,861 and \$200,430 respectively.

The leading spenders thus far are:

AFSCME	\$306,436	U.S. Chamber	\$105,861
Nat'l Rifle Assoc.	\$200,430	Bricklayers	\$ 82,315
NEA & other educational groups	\$170,337	CWA	\$ 50,646

A total of \$971,674 has been spent on partisan communications. \$705,655 has

(over)

been directed toward promoting certain candidates. \$266,019 was spent on 'vote against' communications. (Again, most of this latter spending was done in relation to the Democratic Presidential primary campaigns.)

As much as \$224,668 has been reportedly spent advocating President Carter's re-election. \$79,017 has been spent against Carter. No expenditures have yet been reported for or against Reagan. (These figures include primary and general election activity.)

A summary of all figures is as follows:

\$809,090 has been spent in connection with Presidential campaigns  
(\$572,684 for.....\$236,406 against)

\$ 53,350 has been spent regarding Senate campaigns  
(\$ 38,296 for.....\$ 15,054 against)

\$109,234 has been spent on House campaigns  
(\$94,675 for.....\$ 14,559 against)

Only 16 groups have reported communications costs thus far for the 1980 elections. Similar reports in 1976, showed 71 groups, mostly labor unions, spending \$2.1 million. Most of this activity was in connection with the Presidential election (61%). In 1978, less than one-half million dollars were spent in connection with Congressional races, approximately \$300,000.

Details on communication costs filings can be found in special indexes available in the FEC's Public Records Office, 1325 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Questions concerning information on file should be directed to the FEC Press Office, (202) 523-4065, or toll free (800) 424-9530.