

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 31, 1980

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INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES TOP \$12 MILLION

WASHINGTON -- Independent expenditures to influence the 1980 elections for federal office have exceeded \$12 million, according to reports filed with the Federal Election Commission. More than \$7.5 million has been spent since September 1, based on a review of the most recent filings.

More than 120 political committees, groups, and individuals have made independent expenditures involving approximately 300 candidates. While more than \$10 million has been spent to promote certain candidates, at least \$2 million has been spent in efforts to defeat candidates.

Preliminary figures show the following are the leading spenders: ^{1/}

National Conservative Political Action Committee	\$ 4 million
Congressional Club	\$ 3 million
Fund for a Conservative Majority	\$ 2 million
Americans for an Effective Presidency	\$ 0.8 million
Americans for Change	\$ 0.5 million
Cecil Haden	\$ 0.4 million

(Figures are based on itemized entries on reports filed. Totals may not include all expenditures, as reports are still being processed.)

At least \$10.7 million has been spent in regard to Presidential primaries and general election races. Expenditures on behalf of or against Senate and House campaigns total more than \$1.3 million, (Senate races account for at least \$1.1 million of that total.)

Independent expenditures are those that are made without the cooperation or consent of the candidate(s). They cannot involve any consultation or coordination with candidates or their staffs. Political committees and individuals are unlimited in the amounts they may spend independently of campaigns. These unlimited expenditures are in addition to contributions which may be given to campaigns.

^{1/} Figures are rounded to the nearest tenth of a million.