

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 JANUARY 16, 1981

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WASHINGTON -- The number of political action committees (PAC's) is continuing to grow, based on end-of-year figures released today by the Federal Election Commission. In its semi-annual report on PAC growth, the FEC charts an increase of more than 500 PAC's over the past year.

The agency's figures date back to 1974, prior to enactment of the first amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, which spurred PAC activity.

Figures at that time showed 608 committees in existence in December 1974. That number rose to 1,146 at the end of 1976, and now numbers 2,551.

The FEC chart, shown below, categorizes the number of PAC's in six groupings, based on the sponsoring organization of each.

"PAC" GROWTH - FROM 1974

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COMMITTEE TYPE	EXISTING 12/31/74	REGISTERING 1/1/75 - 11/24/75	TERMINATING 1/1/75 - 11/24/75	*1 EXISTING 11/24/75	REGISTERING 11/25/75 - 5/10/76	TERMINATING 11/25/75 - 5/10/76	*2 EXISTING 5/10/76	REGISTERING 5/11/76 - 12/31/76	TERMINATING 5/11/76 - 12/31/76	EXISTING 12/31/76	REGISTERING 1/1/77 - 10/14/77	TERMINATING 1/1/77 - 10/14/77	EXISTING 10/14/77	EXISTING 12/31/77	EXISTING 12/31/78	EXISTING 8/79	EXISTING 12/31/79	EXISTING 7/1/80	EXISTING 12/31/80
CORPORATE	89	50	0	130	158	3	294	153	14	433	90	15	508	550	784	884	949	1,106	1,204
LABOR	201	29	4	226	34	14	246	33	55	224	19	21	222	234	217	226	240	255	297
TRADE/MEMBERSHIP HEALTH	318	45	6	357	102	7	452	110	73	489	79	37	531	438	451	481	512	542	574
NON-CONNECTED														110	165	209	250	312	378
COOPERATIVE														8	12	13	17	23	42
CORPORATION W/O STOCK														20	24	27	32	41	56
TOTAL	608	124	10	722	294	24	992	296	142	1,146	188	73	1,261	1,360	1,653	1,840	2,000	2,279	2,551

*1 On November 24, 1975, the Commission issued Advisory Opinion 1975-23 "BUNPAC."

*2 On May 11, 1976, the President signed the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976, P.L. 94-263.