

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC EXPANDS ON-LINE SYSTEM

WASHINGTON — Beginning in January 1986, the Federal Election Commission plans to increase the amount of information available through its on-line computer system, entitled DAP, or Direct Access Program.

The additional information will include a summary sheet on each candidate or PAC, showing total receipts and expenditures, cash-on-hand, and debts owed. This summary data will be cumulative, providing the user with financial statistics on each candidate or committee for the entire election cycle.*

Summary information will be available either in FEC format or in raw data form. Subscribers will be able to select from the broad category of candidates or PAC's certain sub-categories, such as incumbents, challengers, candidates designated for the 1986 election cycle, corporate PAC's, labor PAC's, etc.

Also beginning in January, a new program will provide subscribers with an additional research tool. Users will be able to search the data base for particular committee names or portions of committee names. This capability will be particularly useful in situations where the exact name of an organization's PAC is unknown.

The FEC's DAP system is available through the Freedom of Information Act and may be purchased for \$50 per user hour or \$1,000 per month for unlimited use. One hour minimum purchase is required. The system may be accessed from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday. It is specifically designed for personal computers.

*Note: FEC data is collected on a two-year election cycle basis, consisting of the year before and the year of an election. DAP makes available information from the 1983-84 and 1985-86 election cycles.