FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC RELEASES SEMI-ANNUAL FEDERAL PAC COUNT

WASHINGTON -- The number of federally registered political action committees (PACs) has increased by 46 since July 1996, making the total number of registered PACs to date 4,079, according to a semi-annual survey taken December 31, 1996, by the Federal Election Commission.

Corporate PACs remain the largest category, with 1,642 committees, followed by non-connected - 1,103, trade/membership/health - 838, labor - 332, corporations without stock - 123, and cooperatives - 41.

PACs sponsored by corporations and labor organizations are technically referred to as "separate segregated funds" and must register within 10 days of being established. Non-connected PACs (those which are not connected to or sponsored by a corporation or labor organization, and which are not related to a candidate's campaign or to a political party organization) must register within 10 days after certain financial activity exceeds $1,000 during a calendar year.

Registration does not necessarily imply financial activity. Many PACs report making no contributions to candidates or independent expenditures on behalf of or against candidates. Financial information on PACs will be included in future FEC news releases.

The following chart details the number of PACs in existence since the end of 1974.

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PAC COUNT – 1974 TO PRESENT
(semi-annual)

JANUARY 1997

Date	Committee Type						Total
	Corporate	Labor	Trade/ Membership/ Health	Non-Connected	Cooperative	Corp. without stock	
12/31/74	89	201	318*				608
11/24/75**	139	226	357*				722
05/10/76***	294	246	452*				992
12/31/76	433	224	489*				1,146
12/31/77	550	234	438	110	8	20	1,360
12/31/78	785	217	453	162	12	24	1,653
08/00/79	885	226	483	206	13	27	1,840
12/31/79	950	240	514	247	17	32	2,000
07/01/80	1,107	255	544	309	23	41	2,279
12/31/80	1,206	297	576	374	42	56	2,551
07/01/81	1,253	303	579	441	38	64	2,678
12/31/81	1,329	318	614	531	41	68	2,901
07/01/82	1,417	350	627	628	45	82	3,149
12/31/82	1,469	380	649	723	47	103	3,371
07/01/83	1,514	379	664	740	50	114	3,461
12/31/83	1,538	378	643	793	51	122	3,525
07/01/84	1,642	381	662	940	53	125	3,803
12/31/84	1,682	394	698	1,053	52	130	4,009
07/01/85	1,687	393	694	1,039	54	133	4,000
12/31/85	1,710	388	695	1,003	54	142	3,992
07/01/86	1,734	386	707	1,063	56	146	4,092
12/31/86	1,744	384	745	1,077	56	151	4,157
07/01/87	1,762	377	795	967	56	152	4,109
12/31/87	1,775	364	865	957	59	145	4,165
07/01/88	1,806	355	766	1,066	60	143	4,196
12/31/88	1,816	354	786	1,115	59	138	4,268
07/01/89	1,802	349	831	1,051	58	143	4,234
12/31/89	1,796	349	777	1,060	59	137	4,178
07/01/90	1,782	346	753	1,115	58	139	4,193
12/31/90	1,795	346	774	1,062	59	136	4,172
07/01/91	1,745	339	749	1,096	57	137	4,123
12/31/91	1,738	338	742	1,083	57	136	4,094
07/01/92	1,731	344	759	1,091	56	144	4,125
12/31/92	1,735	347	770	1,145	56	142	4,195
07/01/93	1,715	338	767	1,011	55	139	4,025
12/31/93	1,789	337	761	1,121	56	146	4,210
07/01/94	1,666	336	777	963	53	138	3,933
12/31/94	1,660	333	792	980	53	136	3,954
07/01/95	1,670	334	804	1,002	43	129	3,982
12/31/95	1,674	334	815	1,020	44	129	4,016
07/01/96	1,645	332	829	1,058	43	126	4,033
12/31/96	1,642	332	838	1,103	41	123	4,079

* For 1974–76, these numbers represent all other PACs...no further categorization is available.
** On November 24, 1975, the Commission issued Advisory Opinion 1975-23 "SUNPAC".
*** On May 11, 1976, Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976 (P.L. 94-283) were enacted.

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