

Special interests contribute heavily to Sen. McClure

Sun. May 10, 1981

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Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, new chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Republican Conference chairman, was one of the chief beneficiaries of special interest groups, in the 1978 elections.

This was revealed Friday in a study released by Common Cause, a voluntary non-partisan citizen organization.

The report lists McClure as having received \$378,084 from special interests. He received these large contributions in spite of the fact he had a comparatively easy opponent in Democrat Dwight Jensen, Boise freelance writer. McClure got 68 percent of the vote.

Common Cause tabs McClure as one of the leading powers for special interest groups, along with a number of other Senate committee chairmen and leaders.

The study is contained in a report "Money Power and Politics" relating to the 97th Congress.

Reflecting the reasons for many of McClure's votes in behalf of the big corporations, are the many donations he received from their political action committees. He was given numerous \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000 contributions.

Among the largest were \$7,900 from the National Association of Realtors, \$7,800 from the National Rifle Association, \$5,300 from the National Automobile Dealers Association, \$3,000 from AMPCO Foods, Inc. \$5,000 each from the American Medical Association and the American Dental Association, \$3,124 from Americans for Constitutional Action, \$4,733 from Citizens for the Republic, and \$5,000 from the Association of Trial Lawyers.

"The burgeoning influence of business political action committees is dramatically demonstrated by the amounts they have contributed to the present party leaders and committee chairmen," said the report.

It profiles 54 of the most powerful decision-makers (McClure included) in Washington — the Democratic and Republican leadership in Congress and House and Senate committee chairmen."

The report noted almost two-thirds, \$4.1 million of the \$6.5 million in PAC contributions received by these 54 key members of Congress during their last campaigns came from business PACs.

Among others Western senatorial leaders receiving large big business contributions were Sens. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., \$305,189 in his 1976 race, Alan

Simpson, R-Wyo., \$442,484 in his 1978 contest; Jake Garn, R-Utah, \$1,072,159 in his 1980 race; and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, \$394,278 in his 1976 contest.