

# Common Cause to launch attacks against large PAC contributions

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Common Cause President

Fred Wertheimer has announced an intensified campaign against political action committees on behalf of the 240,000-member citizen's lobby group.

"PACs are squeezing the life out of our representative system of government," he said in a press release, "and it's time to draw the line."

Wertheimer outlined a strategy the organization proposes to undertake. This includes a heavy media campaign to publicize PAC influence on congressional decisions. It will also include a legislative agenda to push for major congressional campaign financing reforms, including enactment of a public financing system.

Rep. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, received \$128,951, of which \$117,601 was from business PACs and \$3,000 from labor PACs.

Rep. George Hansen, R-Idaho, got \$54,775, of which \$47,675 was from business PAC but none from labor.

Sen. Pete Wilson, R-Calif., became the country's first million-dollar recipient when he accepted \$1,101,951 in campaign contributions from PACs.

In 1980, the top Senate

recipient of PAC money was Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, \$722,211.

Other top Senate recipients were Sens. David Durenberger, R-Minn., \$975,130; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, \$877,782; and Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, \$760,325.

Winners of the 33 Senate races in 1982 received \$14,870,631, an average of \$450,625 each.

Wertheimer said more than half of that total came from business PACs which contributed \$8.5 million to the 33 members. Labor PACs were second with \$3.1 million.

Twelve senators raised more than \$500,000 from PACs, and six raised more than \$500,000 from business PACs alone.

PACs also invested \$4,367,014 in the 1982 cam-

paigns of the 42 representatives serving on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Half of them received more than \$100,000 each and 17 more received between \$50,000 and \$100,000 apiece.

Business PACs contributed \$2.3 million, nearly twice as much as labor PACs with \$1.2 million.

The top recipients of PAC money for the committee members were Tom Wirth, D-Colo, \$197,800; Philip Sharp, D-Ind., \$182,432; and John Dingle, D-Miss., \$180,005.

Forty-seven House members received more than \$100,000 from business PACs in the 1982 campaign.

The top business PAC recipients were Rep. Robert Michel, R-Ill., \$353,957; and Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., \$212,100.

The top labor PAC recipient

was Rep. John Burton, D-Calif., \$259,050.