

# Lobbyists Partial To Incumbents

## Washington

Groups with special economic interests contributed almost three times as much money to members of the house and senate as to their challengers in last year's elections, Common Cause has reported.

The citizens' lobby said the economic-interest groups — bankers, businessmen, dairymen, physicians and trade unionists, among others — gave incumbents seeking re-election \$3.9 million, compared with \$1.4 million to challengers.

The present system of private financing for congressional elections clearly supports a "monopolistic incumbency party," Common cause chairman John W. Gardner told a news conference Friday. 26 NOV

"Public financing of primary and general elections for congress would encourage real competition — something few members of congress have to face," he said.

The house has before it a senate-passed amendment to the debt-ceiling bill that provides public financing for presidential primaries and house and senate general elections. But the Senate has been unable to send the bill to conference because of a filibuster threat.

Gardner and an aide, Frederic Wertheimer, charged that House members, while possibly willing to fund presidential contests, are balking at public financing for their own prospective opponents but aren't candid about it. Instead, they said, house members are "hiding" behind technical objections to the pending measure.

"It seems to us that the House misread the country," which will not settle for reforming merely presidential races, Gardner said.

Gardner quoted the acting chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, Representative Al Ullman (Dem-Ore.), as having warned colleagues Wednesday that public financing — which would provide \$90,000 to each House candidate in a general election — "could destroy every member of the House of Representatives."

Asked about this Friday, Ullman said he meant to say that the House itself would be destroyed if each of its members had to be constantly looking over his shoulder at a similarly financed opponent.

Members would be so caught up in "day-to-day local politics . . . that they simply would be unable to live up to their responsibilities in the Congress," Ullman told a reporter.

Friday's Common Cause report, the third in a continuing series by the group's Campaign Monitoring Project, analyzes contributions to congressional candidates by political committees registered with the clerk of the House and the secretary of the Senate.

The report supplements a

September analysis by Common Cause showing that congressional candidates in 1972 with incumbents out-spending challengers 2 to 1 expended \$10.6 million in primaries and \$66.4 million in the November elections.

The new report shows that between April 7, 1972, when a strict disclosure law became effective and election day, registered political committees gave congressional candidates in the general election \$13,235,385. The highlights:

- Business groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers' BIPAC, gave \$1,708,189, 66 per cent of it to incumbents, 12 per cent to challengers and 22 per cent in races with no incumbents. However, these figures grossly understate business contributions because many executives gave large sums as individuals; this was especially true for the oil industry. Business money went to Republicans over Democrats in a ratio of 2 to 1.

- Agriculture groups dominantly milk producers gave \$661,925, 57 per cent of it to incumbents and health groups, such as the American Medical Association's \$947,395, 52 per cent of it to incumbents.

- Labor groups, especially the AFL - CIO's COPE, the teamsters' DRIVES and International Ladies Garment Workers Union units gave \$3,633,108, 53 per cent to incumbents, 27 per cent to challengers and 20 per cent in races with no incumbents. Labor money went to Democrats in a top-heavy ratio of 19 to 1 (\$3,454,822 V. \$178,286).

- Miscellaneous interest groups gave \$1,499,123.

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