

# Common Cause Tells of Swelling Election Coffers

## Washington

Political treasuries for this fall are already filled with at least \$14.2 million in cash for the election campaigns of member of the House and Senate, according to a study released yesterday by Common Cause.

Of the total, \$11.6 million is set aside in committees formed by special interest groups such as labor unions, medical association, business, political action committees and dairy industry groups.

The largest single amount listed in the reports was \$1.4 million set aside by the Associated Milk Producers Inc., which is under investigation for its contributions in previous campaigns.

Another \$1 million was listed by nine maritime related groups and unions. The

United Automobile Workers listed \$717,000 and the American Medical Association and related groups listed \$889,000, the study showed.

"Anyone who thinks the Watergate scandals have put special interest groups out of business had better take a close look at these figures," said Fred Wertheimer, director of the Common Cause campaign finance monitoring project.

He said he could see "no way to restore confidence in this system when the same old thing is still going on." In total, business agriculture, health and professional groups listed \$5.9 million on hand as of February 28 this year. Labor listed just slightly over \$5 million.

National Republican party committees that support House and Senate races reported \$2.1 million on hand, while similar Democratic

committees reported \$522,000.

Among these are such sub-groupings as the National Education Association and affiliated state groups which listed \$116,000; six conservative groups with \$71,000 on hand; six liberal groups with \$218,000 on hand and 11 rural electric cooperative associations with \$96,000.

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