

6 Named to Vote Agency Funds May Resume Today

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Senators Agree to Act

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 17 — President Ford officially revised the Federal Election Commission today, apparently clearing the way for resumption of Federal campaign subsidies tomorrow and ending an eight-week freeze on such payments.

The President renamed five of the six sitting commissioners to new terms and filled the single vacancy with former Representative William L. Springer of Illinois, a Republican who has also served on the Federal Power Commission.

After a brief squabble among Republican members, Senate leaders agreed to vote for confirmation of the five current commission members tomorrow, without any committee hearings, so that the agency can move promptly to authorize subsidy payments the same day.

The commission staff has audited claims totaling \$2,171,364 filed by 11 candidates. All this money is expected to be cleared for payment by the Treasury as soon as the five commissioners are confirmed, sworn in and hold a routine

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Companies Aid Ford

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 17—The political committees set up by corporations to channel campaign contributions to favored candidates have invested more than four times as much money in President Ford as they have in his Republican challenger, Ronald Reagan, in 1976.

For the Democrats, Jimmy Carter, the current favorite to win the nomination, has received more help from these corporate funds than Mr. Reagan, but the bulk of it did not come in until April, when Mr. Carter established himself as the front-runner. Nearly half of his contributions of this type have come from two milk industry groups.

This is the first Presidential election in which corporate political action committees have operated on any scale, following clearance by the Federal Election Commission last year, and the amounts they are feeding into the primary campaign remain relatively small.

The corporate, professional and trade association committees that wish to register their support of Presidential candi-

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dates have only a few months left. After the national nominating conventions this summer, the entire cost of the general election will be paid by Federal subsidy, and no more private contributions will be permitted.

So far this year, according to the candidates' own reports, President Ford has collected \$65,200 from such committees, Mr. Carter, \$15,700 and Mr. Reagan, \$13,600. Mr. Carter has also received \$4,800 from political action committees sponsored by organized labor.

Theory Contradicted

The lopsided division of corporate contributions among the two Republican candidates appeared to contradict the widespread theory that the Reagan brand of strong conservatism makes the former California Governor the favorite of business and industry.

However, the figures are complete only through April 30, the day before Mr. Reagan won the Texas primary and then began winning elsewhere. Until that time, many corporate committees may have adopted the functionally conservative policy of not offending the incumbent President.

Mr. Carter got no corporate committee money at all in February, about \$5,300 in March but \$11,300 in April as his prospects of winning the nomination began to climb. (Most candidates did not begin reporting action committee contributions separately until February.)

Political action committees, both corporate and union, collect voluntary contributions from executives and stockholders on one hand and members on the other and then parcel out the money to candidates favored by management or labor.

The operating costs of these committees are paid out of corporate or union assets. Under the Corrupt Practices Act, such money cannot be donated di-

rectly to a candidate, party or political committee.

The corporate committees that have given to both President Ford and Mr. Reagan have all favored the President. The Chevron Committee for Political Participation, an arm of the Standard Oil Company of California, gave \$500 to Mr. Ford and \$300 to Mr. Reagan. The Olin Executives Voluntary Non-Partisan Political Fund (the Olin Corporation) gave \$1,000 to Mr. Ford and \$25 to Mr. Reagan.

Some idea of the professional gamblers' view of the Ford-Reagan contest can be measured by contributions made by Harrah's Republican Political Action Committee, sponsored by a Nevada gambling casino. It gave \$1,000 to Mr. Ford and \$200 to Mr. Reagan.

Three California-based groups were bold enough to make major contributions to Mr. Reagan while giving nothing to the President. They were the Political Awareness Fund (Union Oil Company), \$2,500; The Federal Citizenship Responsibility Group (Southern California Edison Company), \$1,000; and General Telephone Employees Good Government Club of Santa Monica, \$2,000.

The Ford campaign received many large contributions from committees that ignored Mr. Reagan. Among these were Special Political Agricultural Community Education (Dairymen Inc., of Louisville, Ky.), \$5,000; NAPACT (Nursing Home Administrators Political Action Committee of Texas), \$5,000; Southern Railway Good Government Fund (Southern Railway System), \$5,000; Michigan Doctors Political Action Committee (state medical association), \$3,000; California Medical Political Action Committee (state medical association),

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meeting in the early afternoon. The chief beneficiary of the release of funds will be President Ford himself, who is due \$866,000. Other major candidates eligible for immediate cash include Ronald Reagan of California, \$390,000; Jimmy Carter of Georgia, \$314,000; and Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona, \$240,000.

Altogether, the Presidential candidates, active and inactive, have filed for \$3.7 million, of which \$1.4 million has not been audited and is thus not ready for payment. More requests were being submitted today.

The Senate Rules Committee scheduled a confirmation hearing for Mr. Springer on Thursday. He is being named to succeed the commission chairman, Thomas B. Curtis, who asked Mr. Ford not to reappoint him.

Mr. Curtis's term as chairman expired in mid-April, and it is up to the commission to elect a successor. This will probably be one of the three Democratic members, since Mr. Curtis was a Republican and there is an unofficial agreement on the bipartisan agency to rotate the chairmanship.

With Mr. Springer's prefer-

ence still unknown, Thomas E. Harris, a Democrat, is believed to be backed for chairman by Robert O. Tiernan, also a Democrat, and Joan D. Aikens, a Republican, while Neil Staebler, a former Democratic Representative, is supported by Vernon W. Thomson, a Republican former Governor of Wisconsin and House member.

The reappointment of these five commissioners was made necessary by a Supreme Court ruling in January that the agency had been unconstitutionally named. Under the old law, four of its six members were appointed by Congressional leaders, which the court found a violation of the separation of powers doctrine.

After three months, Congress approved a new law to have all six commission members appointed by the President, and Mr. Ford signed it a week ago. Today, after some difficulty in filling the Curtis vacancy, he appointed the one new and five old members.

Mr. Springer, who is 67 years old, served in the House for 22 years. He was a member of the Federal Power Commission for 18 months in 1974-75.

ONE MILLION KIDS
THE FRESH AIR FUND

\$2,000; Southern Pacific Management Officers Good Government Fund (Southern Pacific Railroad), \$2,900; and G-P Employees Fund (Georgia Pacific Corporation), \$1,900.

A few of the committees that donated to the President hedged their bets by also giving to Mr. Carter. The Georgia Committee for Political Action, which is financed by the Kentucky milk group called S.P.A.C.E., gave Mr. Ford \$5,000 and Mr. Carter \$3,000.

The Southern Railway Good Government Fund, which had contributed \$5,000 to the President, gave Mr. Carter \$950. The Pacific Lighting Political Assistance Committee (Pacific Lighting Service Corporation of Los Angeles) gave Mr. Ford \$1,000 and Mr. Carter \$200.

Largest Contributor

Mr. Carter's largest corporate contribution from a political action committee came from C-TAPE, the Committee for Thorough Agricultural Political Education, an arm of Associated Milk Producers Inc., which gave him \$5,000, the legal maximum from a committee.

In 1974, Associated Milk Producers was fined \$35,000 for making illegal corporate campaign contributions in the 1968, 1970 and 1972 elections, and two of the dairy cooperative's former officers were given four-month jail sentences.

Labor contributions to the Carter campaign were \$3,300 in several installments from the United Automobile Workers, \$500 from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and \$1,000 from a Frankfort, Ky., group listed as "Labor App Carter." Like several other contributing committees, the last group had not registered with the Federal Election Commission, and its sponsorship thus could not be readily identified.