

WHY IS THIS FAT CAT"Ed Fritz" SMILING?

NAB Opens Mouth,Purses Fall Out Loaded With Money!

Approve LPFM Broadcast Community Service FCC Docket  
MM-99-25

IT WAS A BILLION-DOLLAR-PLUS ELECTION

The 1998 elections hold a lot of promise for special interest fat cats one of those "FAT CATS IS ED FRITZ OF THE NAB" because they again poured

record-setting amounts into politicians' campaigns and otherwise spent lavishly to influence the outcome. With all the private money flowing into campaign coffers, contributors who are trying to buy influence and favors will have that much more say when it comes time to lobby for their vested interests and corporate welfare. The preliminary totals are shown below. Keep in mind that money earned in the final pre-election fundraising blitz doesn't yet show up here=85. And it's already more than \$1 billion.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES\*

Congressional candidates in general election:	\$571.8 million
Primary losers, special elections:	\$64.7 million
Total	\$636.5 million (1/1/97 =96 10/14/98)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL PARTY COMMITTEES =96 HARD MONEY\*

Democratic Party national committees:	\$106.1 million
Republican Party national committees:	\$183 million
Total	\$289.1 million (1/1/97 - 10/14/98)

SOFT MONEY\*

Democratic Party national committees:	\$78.8 million
Republican Party national committees:	\$93.7 million
Total	\$172.5 million

(1/1/97 =96 10/14/98)

ISSUE ADVERTISING\*\*

Issue ads have become a way to circumvent campaign finance laws. They are supposedly used to promote a group's stand on issues, but many are, in fact, thinly disguised electoral ads. They are a relatively new and unregulated form of election advertising. There is no centralized reporting or firm accounting on them. According to news reports and studies by Annenburg Public Policy Center, the Republican Party committees ran about \$34 million worth of issue ads in this year's elections; the Democrats, some \$15 million (these are included in total below). Beyond that, business, labor, and other groups (e.g., environmental, pro-life, etc.) have also sponsored issue ads in this election cycle. The Annenburg Center estimates that the total spent on issue ads may be as high as \$345 million in this election cycle; that's both for electoral campaigns and lobbying efforts such as the one staged by the tobacco industry to stop legislation they didn't want. As we do not yet have precise figures, we will make a conservative estimate for the election-related issue ads, based on the Annenburg Center data.

Estimated total

\$75 million (1997-98)

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES\*

Like issue advertising, independent expenditures represent money spent by organizations that do not have official, direct ties to a candidate. Unlike issue ads, these ads can exhort people to vote for or vote against a specific candidate; also, these expenditures must be reported to the Federal Election Commission.

Estimated total

\$6.8 million (1/1/97 -

11/1/98)

GRAND TOTAL: \$1.2 billion

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