Political action committees have become a dominant force in American politics. Their numbers and the funds spent in federal campaigns continue to increase with each election cycle. The latest report by the Federal Election Commission showed an increase of 8 percent in the first six months of 1982. There are now five times as many committees as in 1974, when their activities came under regulatory provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

**BREAUX, LONG LEAD IN CONTRIBUTIONS**

Political Action Panels Pad Campaign War Chests

By SHELLY BLANCHARD

AdvertMr

WASHINGTON - Lafayette area congressman facing re-election challenges have bulging campaign war chests, compared with their opponents, new reports on file with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) reveal.

Rep. John Breaux, D-Crowley, reported $168,769 in his account as of July 15. His challenger, Johnny Myers of Lake Charles, has no report on file with FEC registering him as a candidate or reporting campaign financial activity.

Breaux began the period with $112,197 in his campaign coffers. He reported taking in $74,086 in contributions during the period, $35,885 from individuals and $38,181 from political action committees. He refunded $1,500 in contributions during the period.

His campaign expenses during the three months totaled $22,229, leaving him with a balance of $168,769 as he headed into the campaign season.

Oil and gas industry PACs have contributed heavily to Breaux. Among the special interests, the largest donations during the period to the Breaux campaign came from the National Fisherman Institute ($1,200), American Fur Industry ($1,000), International Association of Drilling Contractors ($1,000), and Jim Walter Corp., ($1,000).

Most Expenditures Routine

Most of the $22,229 in Breaux’s expenditures during the period were routine disbursements for travel, meals, postage and printing. But Breaux’s committee also spent nearly $5,000 for a fundraising reception in Sacramento, Calif.

The Breaux campaign to date this year has spent $41,194, and taken in $77,716 in contributions.

Democratic Rep. Gillis Long has more than a half-million dollars squirreled away to beat off each challenge by state Sen. Ned Randolph, who had only $7,612 on hand as of July 15. Both Long and Randolph are from Alexandria, in the 8th District. Rep. Billy Tauzin, D-Thibodaux, is opposed in the primary.

The figures were disclosed in quarterly reports which candidates must file with the FEC regarding campaign contributions and expenditures. The reports reflect financial activity through June 30 and are a benchmark in fundraising as the Sept. 11 primary draws.

Breaux began the period with $493,978 in his campaign fund, and added contributions totaling $58,956, $40,125 from individuals and $18,500 from political action committees. Long’s committee spent $24,602 during the period, the largest expenditure amounting to $4,483 for professional polling services.
percent he got in winning re-election in 1975. "We're going to Labor Day with this wide a margin," Edwards said.

His early lead reflected the personal popularity of Edwards, who has been a key player in the state club politics that have dominated Louisiana for decades. Edwards is a friend and sometime以致 of Gov. John M. Barret Jr., who is running for re-election and may face a primary challenge from Edwards in 1979.

"Without his help, we would have had a hard campaign," said Edwards. "I regret that one of the program's main goals was to fight crime in the south.

The Louisiana Democratic senator and his wife were among several elected officials who were excused from the state legislature because of a conflict of interest. Edwards has been a senator for 16 years and was re-elected in 1975.

"Sorry about the weather, folks, but I'm going to keep going," Edwards said in an interview after the bank fraud case, apparently laced the end of his 24-year statehouse career.

"I'm not sure about that," Edwards said. "I don't know if I'll ever run again.

The Edwards campaign manager, John Cade, helped the Edwards campaign in 9 of the state's 64 parishes. A Justice Department spokesman in Washington said it was "difficult to determine" whether Edwards had committed any crimes or violations.

For Edwards, predicting he'd win with 62 percent of the vote was not a high bar, he said. "This is a day of celebration," Edwards said. "It's a day of victory for Edwards, a day of celebration for Edwards.

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Edwards' record of never having lost an election was also a factor. In a closely watched state Senate race, state Rep. Ben Bagert was leading former governor, he took over when Richard W. Lee resigned. blems' in any of the five parishes with theProfessor of Education J. Kelly Nix was trailing in a bid for a third term, Ll. Gov. Bobby Leche resigned. blems' in any of the five parishes with theProfessor of Education J. Kelly Nix was trailing in a bid for a third term, Ll. Gov. Bobby Leche resigned. blems' in any of the five parishes with theProfessor of Education J. Kelly Nix was trailing in a bid for a third term, Ll. Gov. Bobby Leche resigned. blems' in any of the five parishes with theProfessor of Education J. Kelly Nix was trailing in a bid for a third term, Ll. Gov. Bobby Leche resigned. blems' in any of the five parishes with theJustice Department spokesman in Washington said it was "difficult to determine" whether Edwards had committed any crimes or violations.

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"Landslide Victory' Puts Edwards In Mansion

A Los Angeles station, KNX-AM, also ran on the same ballot. It was "a landslide victory" for Edwards, Edwards told supporters to stay with the guy he got out of Angola.

"With the guy he got out of Angola," Edwards later told supporters to stay with him. "That they could be in "physical as well as legal" trouble if they overstepped the law.

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"Other than reports of people politicking in the open, there was no indication that anyone had any serious elections problems," he said.

He said officials called this a "quieter" election than four years ago "in terms of wrongdoing or allegations of wrongdoing.

Treen, walking a half-block from his suburban New Orleans home to vote, campaigned in mid-afternoon for voters in line to decide whether to allow him and his family to remain with their neighbors without "endangering the weather, folks, but I'm glad to see people are voting," he told those who asked for him.

Edwards, a former congressman and rich oil and gas attorney, outspent Treen better than a 9-1 margin. Edwards said in an interview earlier this year after his second conviction.

In other statewide races, Superintendent of Education J. Kelly Nix was trailing in a "close and close" vote-getters meet in the Nov. 19 general election. More than 200 persons showed up at a "quieter" event in the Nov. 19 general election. More than 200 persons showed up at a "quieter" event in the Nov. 19 general election.

Gubernatorial candidate was one of a number of local elections and the proposed amendment to the 1974 Constitution was on the ballot, according to a New Orleans station.

Five other statewide races, 103 legislative districts and the county and parish attorney, outspent Treen better than a 9-1 margin. Edwards said in an interview earlier this year after his second conviction.

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