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## Practical PACs

With control of House in question, interest groups giving to Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP) — With control of the House up for grabs, business groups that overwhelmingly favored Republicans during the Gingrich years have begun spreading more political money to Democratic candidates.

Eight of the 10 biggest corporate political action committees (PACs) have anted up a larger than usual share of their donations to Democrats in 1999, an Associated Press analysis of Federal Election Commission records shows.

In many cases, Democrats — needing just five more seats to regain a House majority — are getting their largest percentage of business PAC contributions since the 1994 election, when they lost control of Congress to the GOP.

PACs are the donating arms of special interest groups and can give up to \$5,000 per election to each federal candidate. That compares with a \$1,000 limit for individual donors.

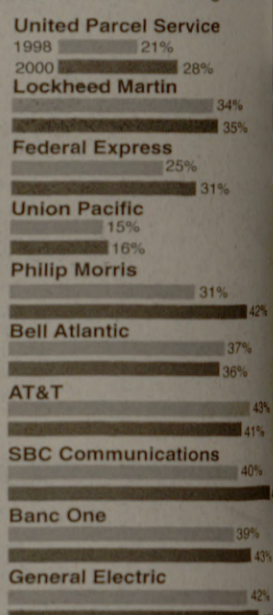
PAC directors said they are not boosting donations to Democrats because they expect a change of control in 2000. But they said some new Democratic members who picked up seats in the last two elections are more moderate than more veteran Democrats and more likely to vote with business.

"We normally give to people who support our positions. That includes people on both sides of the aisle," Gary Lytle, vice president of federal relations for Ameritech, which gave 41 percent of its PAC donations to Democrats during the first six months of 1999, compared with 37 percent during the 1998 elections, said.

Added Dan Danner, vice president of federal public policy for the National Federation of Independent Business: "At this juncture, there are probably more Democrats, at least in the House, who have voted with us more than in the past."

### PAC money

Here is a look at the percent of corporate political action committee contributions that went to Democrats in the 1998 election compared with the current campaign. The PAC contributors were the 10 largest in 1998.



Sources: Federal Election Commission, Center for Responsive Politics

## President returns from trip

HONOLULU (AP) — President Clinton hurried home yesterday to deal with the dual crises of the violence in East Timor and Hurricane Floyd. He urged Americans caught up in a massive evacuation along the East Coast to "stay out of harm's way."

The president dropped plans for a day of golf in Hawaii where Air Force One was stopping to refuel en route back from a five-day presidential visit to New Zealand. Instead, the president was to take off as soon as his jet was ready.

It was the threat of Hurricane Floyd that prompted Clinton to speed his return to the White House. He consulted during the day with Vice President Al Gore and James Lee Witt, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"I hope that every citizen will heed the warnings of the officials and the recommendations to take every action to protect their families and stay out of harm's way," Clinton said during a refueling stop at Hickam

Air Force Base on his way back from an economic summit in New Zealand.

"We will take extraordinary measures to protect lives and property from Hurricane Floyd," he said.

Clinton issued pre-emptive emergency declarations for North Carolina and South Carolina yesterday he had done earlier for Florida and Georgia. Such a move is rare, Clinton said he wanted to mobilize disaster relief.

Noting the massive storm was forcing the largest peacetime evacuation in American history, Clinton said he spoke personally with the governors of North Carolina and South Carolina yesterday to help coordinate relief plans.

Other business also awaited. After a five-day delay, Congress sent to Clinton their \$792 billion cut proposal yesterday; a bill the president had vowed to veto. In a letter, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and House Speaker Hastert, R-Ill., urged against a veto, saying the cut package "does not take one penny" from the Social Security trust fund and can act as a catalyst should the economy turn sour.



CLINTON

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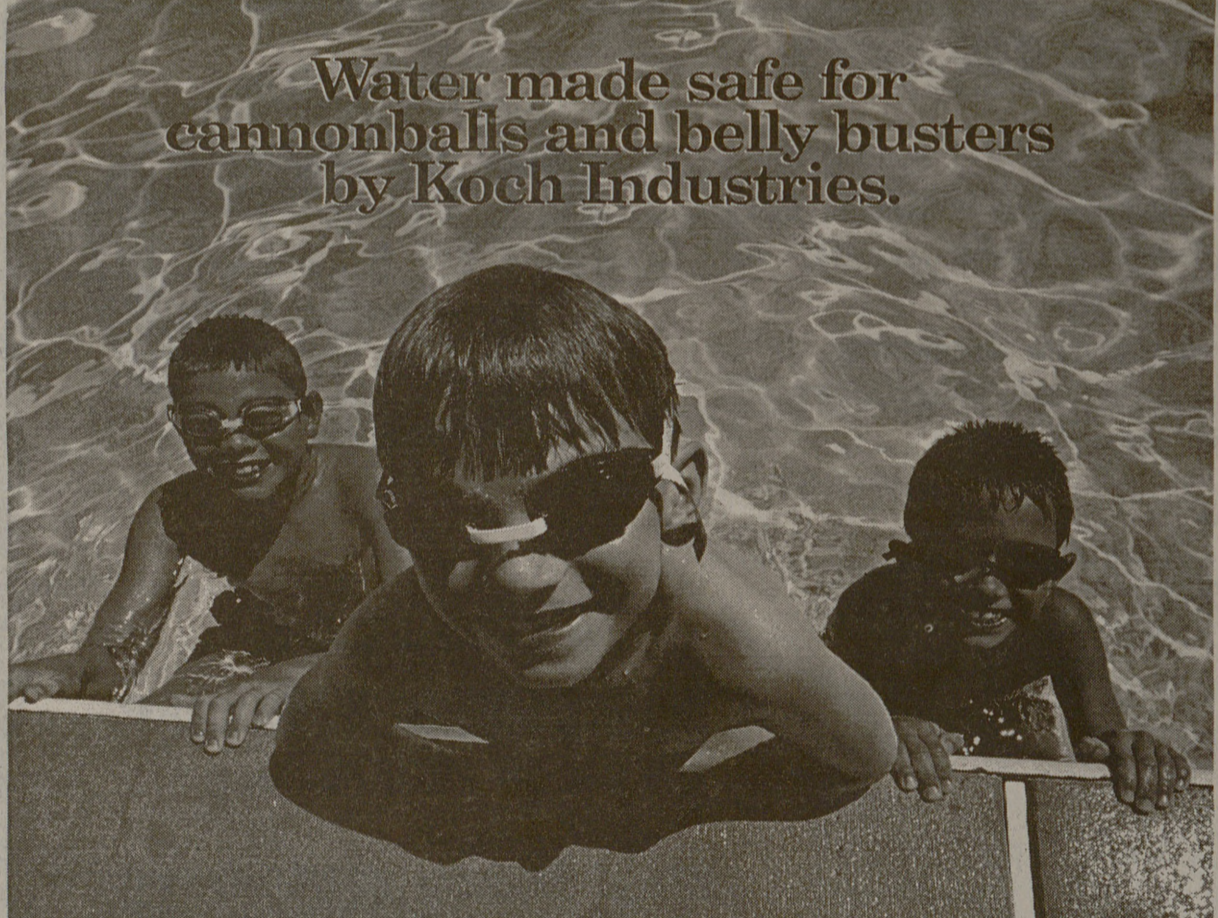
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- 9:15-9:30 Tour
- 9:30-10:15 Overview
- 10:15-11:00 Meet Coordinator
- 11:00-12:00 Student Panel
- 12:00-1:00 Break for Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 Admissions Q & A Session

### For More Information:

The George Bush School of Government & Public Service  
Texas A&M University  
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1999 Fall Open House  
Saturday, September 18  
George Bush Presidential Complex  
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Room 1030