

Oil, defense money funds Stevens' campaign

by Bruce Bartley
The Associated Press

Bolstered by defense, oil and Wall Street dollars, Sen. Ted Stevens is amassing a campaign war chest that makes this year's Senate race already the most expensive in Alaska history.

Alaska's senior senator attracted more money in each of 1983's bi-annual contribution reporting periods than he spent in his entire 1978 re-election effort. Stevens' contributions also outstripped Sen. Frank Murkowski's record 1980 campaign spending.

The flood of donations began even before anyone seriously challenged Stevens' desire to serve a third full term in the Senate.

On March 2, former state Attorney General John Havelock announced he would seek the Democratic nomination to oppose Stevens, the Republican whip. And Havelock served notice he intends to make an issue of the size and the sources of Stevens' campaign treasury, dubbing Stevens "the senator from Outside."

"Outside" is the term many Alaskans use to describe the rest of the United States, and Havelock said one look at "Ted's huge bankroll and where it comes from" explains why he thinks Stevens doesn't represent Alaska.

A review of Stevens' Federal Election Commission reports shows a substantial amount did come from outside Alaska.

Although Stevens' Alaska contributors outnumber those from Outside by about 2-1, most of the Alaskans gave less than \$200. Of the contributions of more than \$200, about 60 percent came from Outside — a third of those from New York.

It's in the area of political action committees, (PACs), that the Outside influences are most pronounced. Stevens raked in more than \$288,000 from PACs, virtually all of them from Outside. A study by Common Cause, a self-styled citizens'

watchdog group, showed that among senators seeking re-election this year, Stevens was second only to Alabama Democrat Howell Heflin in accepting PAC money.

PACs are allowed to contribute \$5,000 each for the primary and general elections, and Common Cause believes their influence is destroying the American democratic process.

But Stevens makes no apologies for accepting money from PACs or other outside sources.

"That's where the political money is now, in the PACs," Stevens says.

And he says critics should wait to see where Havelock gets his money before condemning Stevens' contributions.

"It's not going to be easy to finance a political campaign without money from the political action committees," says Stevens.

Indeed, Havelock already has acknowledged he plans to accept money from PACs, saying he has no choice in light of Stevens' already fat treasury. He has yet to file a contribution report. His first is due next month.

Before Havelock's announcement, Stevens said he easily could double his totals once his supporters were convinced he had a formidable opponent. "They've just bet on a horse race. Once we have money from them we know where we can go for more," he said.

He says he is prepared to raise as much as \$3 million if necessary.

Stevens' contributions from individuals totaled almost \$459,000. Individuals can contribute \$1,000 for each of the two elections.

All told, Stevens in 1983 raked in more than \$762,000. By comparison, he spent only \$347,000 in 1978, and Murkowski \$697,000 in 1980. The most expensive campaign in Alaska history was the \$2.1 million spent by Democrat Bill Sheffield to get elected governor in 1982.

Merely totaling the money from PACs doesn't tell the whole story.

While the committees are limited in the amount of money they can give, there is nothing to prevent individual employees and their spouses from chipping in with their maximum contributions.

For example, Mobil Oil's PAC gave Stevens only \$500 in 1983. But its employees, mostly members of the giant oil company's board of directors, ponied up another \$15,000 — making Mobil and its personnel the single largest source of Stevens' campaign funds.

The oil industry and its employees accounted for more than \$73,000 — nearly 10 percent of Stevens' 1983 contributions. Other major sources included the defense and aerospace industry, more than \$66,000, and Wall Street and the banking community, more than \$58,000.

Precise figures are impossible to calculate because in many cases contributors failed to clearly identify their line of work or employers, as required by federal law.

Although Stevens is a conservative Republican, he took more than \$23,000 from labor unions — most of them directly affected by his seats on various subcommittees of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mobil wasn't the only company that camouflaged its largesse by having contributions come from employees and their spouses instead of PACs. And in doing so they managed to avoid the \$5,000 limit placed on PAC contributions.

Many of the companies whose generosity isn't readily apparent are from Alaska or have significant operations here.

For example, the names of Alaska International Industries, Alascom, Cook Inlet Region Inc., National Bank of Alaska, the Uchitel Corp. and Peat, Marwick Mitchell & Co., don't appear under any PAC listings. Yet employees, usually in high-level management positions, from each of those firms chipped in at least \$4,000.

Employees of Alaska International Industries, owned by



Sen. Ted Stevens

Neil Bergt, gave \$7,000. Uchitel Corp. employees gave \$4,000. Two other companies owned at least in part by Bob Uchitel, Visions and Multivisions, added \$5,000.

Alascom employees gave \$5,750, with another \$1,000 coming from employees of Pacific Telecom, the Vancouver, Wash., parent company of Alascom.

Personnel from Cook Inlet Region Inc., the Anchorage-based Native regional corporation, put up \$5,500. The folks from National Bank of Alaska came up with \$4,500. And employees of accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell in Anchorage, Dallas and Denver gave \$4,800.

On the national level, Atlantic Richfield Co. employees supplemented ARCO's PAC contribution of \$6,000 with \$5,825 in individual donations. The \$4,100 from the PAC of the defense firm United Technologies was bolstered by \$2,600 in individual contributions.

Charter Oil's PAC gave \$2,000 while its employees gave another \$2,000. Charter is the company that promised a huge petrochemical plant in Alaska, a dream that eventually was scaled down to a refinery and finally scrapped. The state still has lawsuits pending against Charter and its subsidiaries as a result of the royalty oil tied up in the proposal.

Besides New York, the oil-rich cities of Houston and Dallas are fertile grounds for Stevens' fund-raising efforts. In addition to totals already listed, private producers and

investors in oil-related businesses from Texas cities added another \$5,500.

Among the Texas contributors is Enserch, which between PAC and individual contributions gave \$3,750. Enserch played a prominent role in the post-inaugural fundraising trip that landed Sheffield in so much political hot water in early 1983.

"The only thing I'll contribute to hereafter is the United Appeal," said George Steinbrenner after being fined \$15,000 following his no contest plea to conspiring to violate federal election campaign contribution laws in 1974. But Steinbrenner, the flamboyant owner of the New York Yankees, gave Stevens \$1,000 last year.

And a top executive of his company, American Ship Building of Tampa, Fla., which was fined \$20,000 in the same incident, gave another \$1,000.

Stevens also received \$1,000 from another sports mogul, Donald Trump, owner of the New Jersey Generals of the U.S. Football League.

And then there are the more esoteric contributions that incumbents as highly placed as Stevens seem to attract routinely. Donations came from such diverse sources as PACs representing sugar cane and cotton growers, psychiatrists, and a North Carolina furniture manufacturer.

Given the hundreds of thousands of dollars on hand, Stevens decided he could do without the \$500 given him by the Tobacco Institute. Campaign Treasurer Tim McKeever said Wednesday Stevens objected to advertising by the institute which the senator thought was designed to encourage youngsters to smoke.

But Stevens kept \$1,000 from Phillip Morris and \$500 from the R.J. Reynolds Fund, both large tobacco interests. McKeever said both of those companies also own a number of subsidiaries which do business in Alaska, and Stevens objected only to the specific ads of the Tobacco Institute.