

# MR. LIPMAN'S AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS POWER POINT

Chapter 16  
Interest Groups

- Interest Groups give the unrepresented or underrepresented an opportunity to be heard
- Problem is they also give wealthy and powerful the opportunity to influence policy makers at all levels of government

- ***Disturbance Theory:*** To form an interest group to counteract other interest groups
- ***Lobbyist*** is a representative hired by an interest group to push their particular agenda
- Many states and municipalities retain lobbyists to work on their behalf in Washington (but isn't that what Congressman are supposed to do?)

- Types of interest groups
  - **Public Interest Groups**
  - **Economic Interest Groups**
  - Governmental Units
  - **Political Action Committees**
  - Multi-issue versus single-issue groups

A “PAC” is an acronym for \_\_\_\_\_.

- Political Action Committee
- Politically Anonymous Company
- Public Action Ceremony
- People’s Ardent Continuum
- Population American Committee

A “PAC” is an acronym for \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Political Action Committee**
- Politically Anonymous Company
- Public Action Ceremony
- People’s Ardent Continuum
- Population American Committee

# THE BIG 3 ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUPS

- 1. *Trade and Professional Groups* (ex: AMA; ABA; or Trial Lawyers Association)
- 2. *Labor Organizations* (ex: NEA; AFT; ILA; Teamsters; UAW)
- 3. *Farmer Organizations*

- Largest single issue interest groups today concern abortion and gun control
- Influence of organized labor has been reduced since the 1950s
- To influence courts interest groups file briefs in cases known as *amicus curiae* briefs



In 1965 \_\_\_\_\_ became a well known consumer rights advocate with the publishing of his book, "Unsafe at Any Speed."

- Jerry Falwell
- Ralph Nader
- Pat Robertson
- Ronald Reagan
- John McCain

In 1965 \_\_\_\_\_ became a well known consumer rights advocate with the publishing of his book, “Unsafe at Any Speed.”

- Jerry Falwell
- **Ralph Nader**
- Pat Robertson
- Ronald Reagan
- John McCain

- Progressive Movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century created a huge growth in interest groups and this led to government regulation of businesses in response
- Businesses then began to fight these regulations by organizing and consolidating their efforts thus leading to more interest groups (commonly known as **trade associations**)

# THE MAGNA CARTA OF LABOR

- Clayton Act (1914) : Allowed unions to organize an industry without fear of prosecution and guaranteed the right to strike.
- This led to a growth in unions and their subsequent influence in the world of politics

# What Do Interest Groups Do?

- Some are non political.
- Political interest groups
  - increase representation and participation
  - increase public awareness about important issues
  - help frame the public agenda
  - monitor programs to guarantee effective implementation
  - engage in **lobbying** and election activities

# Lobbying

- Congress
  - through research, money, or testimony
- The executive branch
- The courts
  - through sponsorship or amicus briefs
- Grassroots lobbying, such as petitions
- Protests and radical activism

# Election Activities

- Candidate recruitment and endorsements
- Getting out the vote
- Rating the candidates or office holders
- Campaign contributions
  - PACs

Question: Interest groups participate in the electoral process in all of the following ways

EXCEPT

- nominating candidates for office.
- contributing money to political campaigns.
- getting out of the vote.
- rating office holders.
- Endorsing candidates who are running for office.

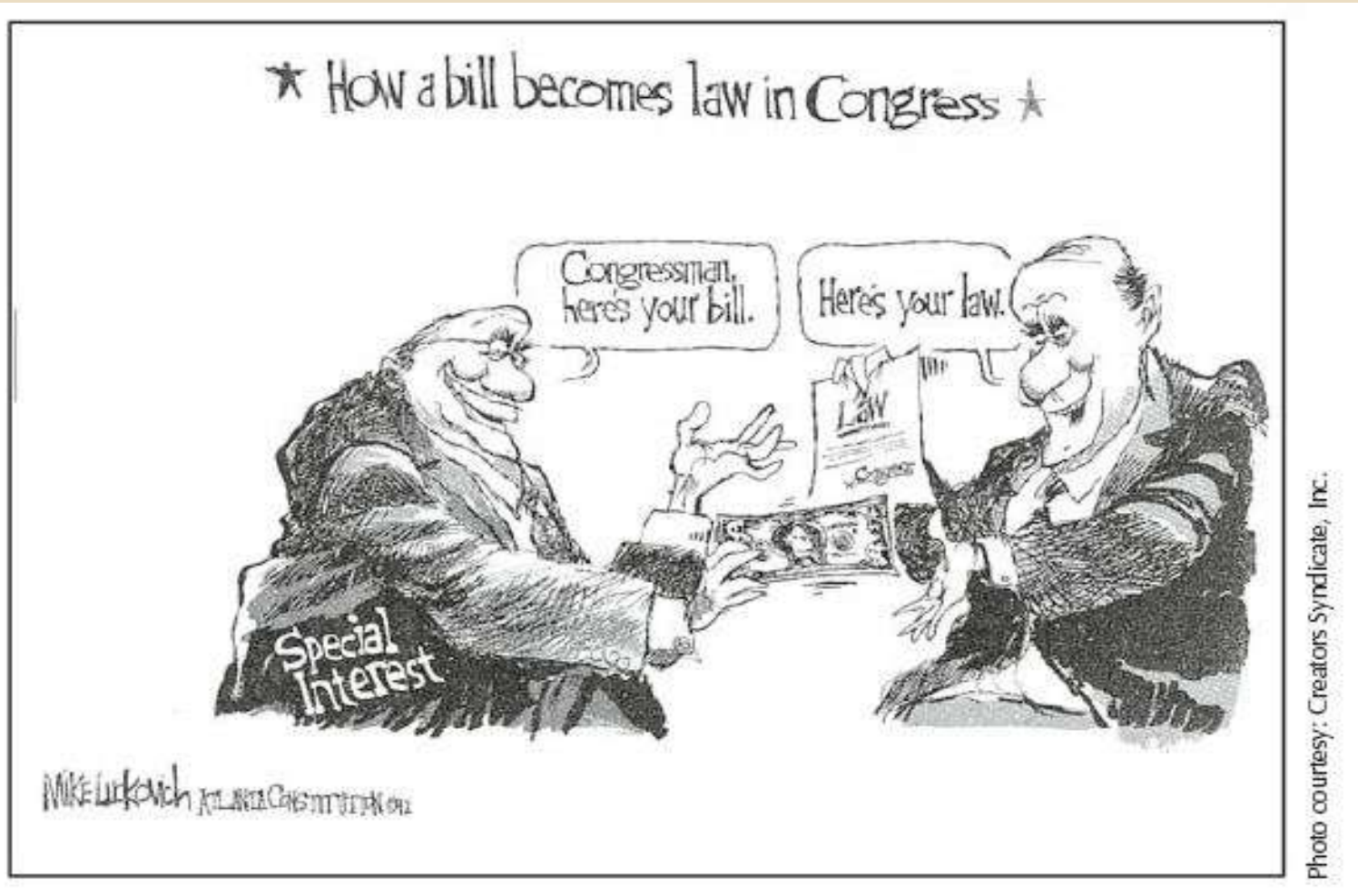


Interest groups participate in the electoral process in all of the following ways EXCEPT

- **nominating candidates for office.**
- contributing money to political campaigns.
- getting out of the vote.
- rating office holders.
- Endorsing candidates who are running for office.

- The downside to interest groups is that as they grow they demand more and more attention thus increasing the cost of public policies and the size of the government
- For example see page 525 for the different ways used to influence elected officials

*What role do lobbyists play in Congress?* This cartoon presents one popular, although not always correct, view of how legislation gets enacted on Capitol Hill.



# Table 16.1: What are the characteristics of selected interest groups?

| Name (Founded)  | Membership           | PAC? | Fundraising—2010 Election Cycle* |
|---|----------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Public Interest Groups</b>   |                      |      |                                  |
| AARP (1958)   | 40 million           | N    | \$27,900,000                     |
| Concerned Women for America (1974)  | 500,000              | Y    | 366,509                          |
| Human Rights Campaign (1980)  | 750,000              | Y    | 1,268,464                        |
| League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) (1929)                   | 115,000              | N    | n/a                              |
| National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (1909) | 500,000              | N    | 200,000                          |
| <b>Economic Interest Groups</b>   |                      |      |                                  |
| AFL-CIO (1886)  | 11.5 million         | Y    | 1,692,335                        |
| American Association for Justice (1946)                                   | 56,000               | Y    | 6,265,740                        |
| National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) (1895)                        | 12 million           | N    | 7,450,000                        |
| U.S. Chamber of Commerce (1912)   | 3 million businesses | Y    | 232,115                          |
| <b>Good Government Groups</b>   |                      |      |                                  |
| Common Cause (1970)   | 400,000              | N    | 161,530                          |
| Public Citizen, Inc. (1971)   | 80,000               | N    | n/a                              |
| MoveOn.org (1998)   | 5 million            | Y    | 39,860,865                       |

\*Fundraising amounts are significantly less in off-year elections, such as the midterm election in 2010.

Source: [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org) (August 24, 2010).

# KEY TO THE FUTURE

- The growth of PACS and 527s, and the money they generate, is changing the face of elections since they can now single handily alter the election process and the influence placed on elected officials.