

Ch. 9 Interest Groups





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PAY NO ATTENTION
TO THE MAN OUTSIDE,
SENATOR





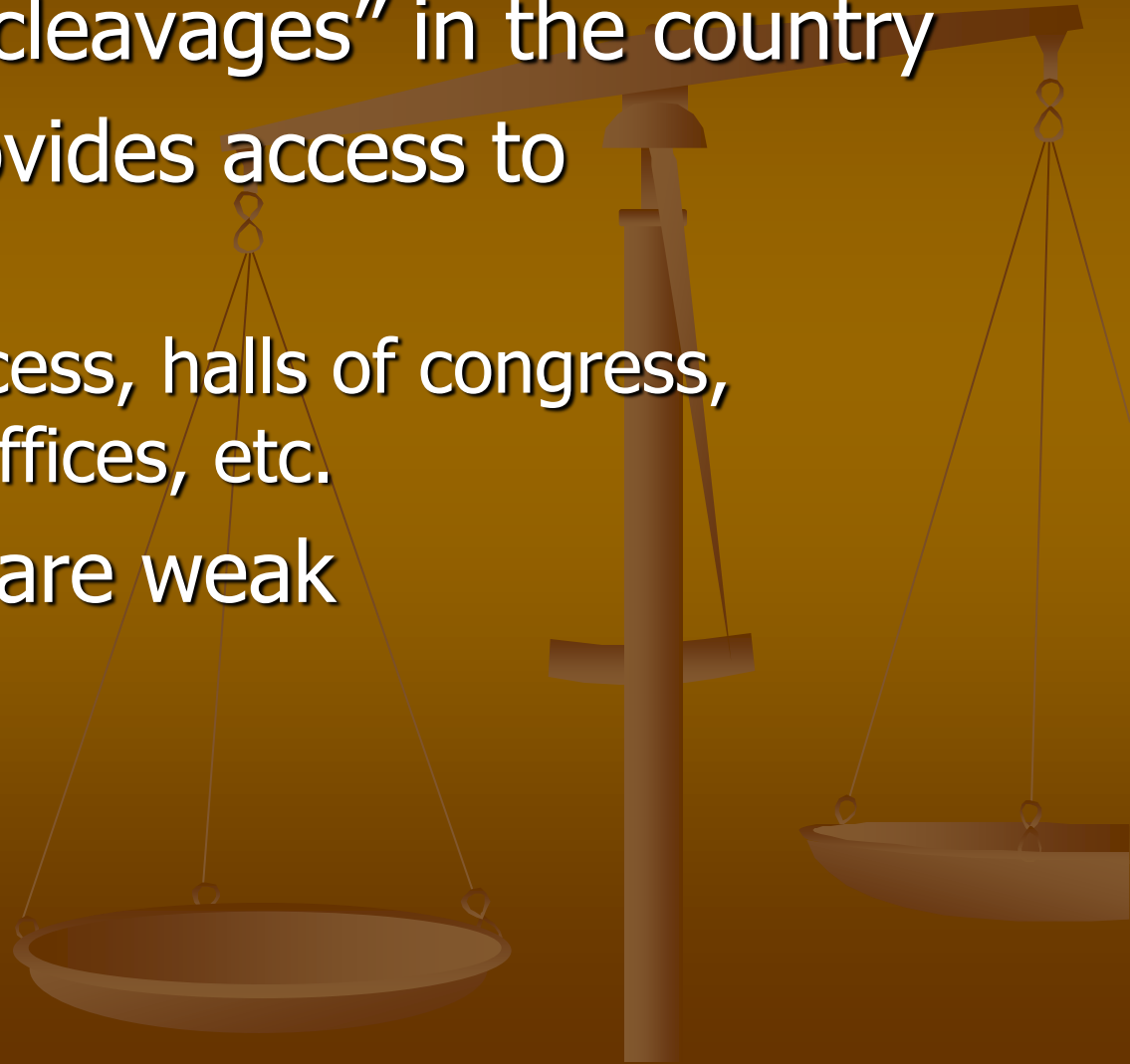
Interest Groups

- Any voluntary association that seeks to publicly promote and create advantages for its cause.

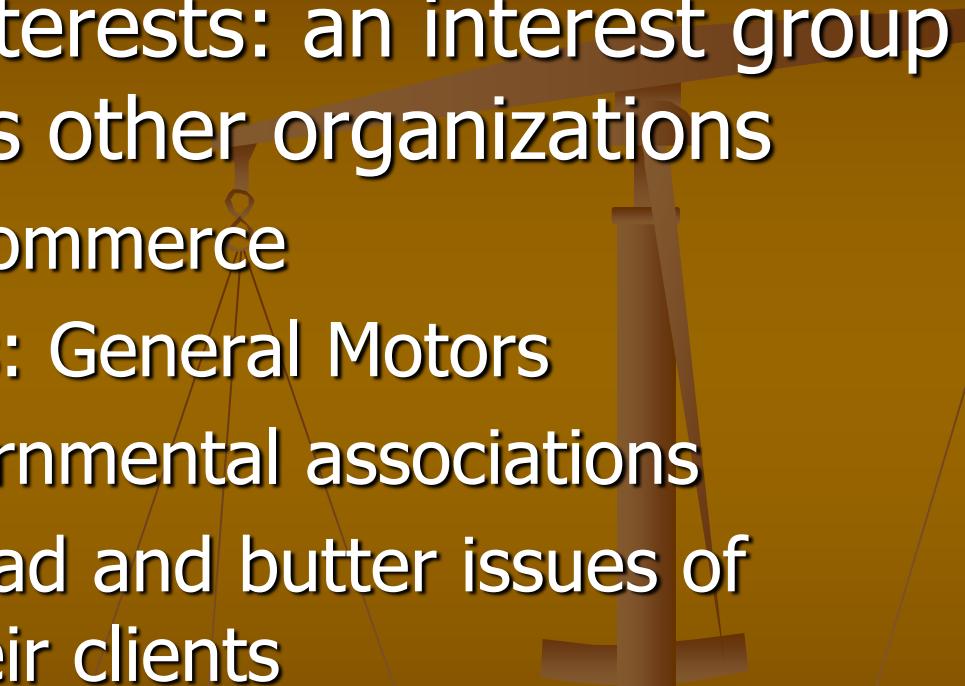
Rank	Sector	Amount	Dems	Repubs	 To DEMS  To REPUBS
1	Finance/Insur/RealEst	\$656,923,622	24.8%	51.9%	
2	Other	\$559,782,061	46.2%	41.9%	
3	Misc Business	\$459,051,032	26.6%	39.6%	
4	Ideology/Single-Issue	\$314,441,938	40.4%	43.1%	
5	Health	\$260,528,381	33.7%	42.3%	
6	Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$247,543,360	61.9%	29.8%	
7	Communic/Electronics	\$202,587,915	46.3%	27.2%	
8	Labor	\$141,187,722	43.1%	4.3%	
9	Energy/Nat Resource	\$138,705,629	15.9%	63.9%	
10	Construction	\$122,934,201	20.2%	50.6%	
11	Agribusiness	\$90,592,526	22.4%	66.0%	
12	Transportation	\$77,048,762	21.7%	69.0%	
13	Defense	\$27,428,125	39.6%	59.6%	

Popularity of Interest Groups

- Many kinds of “cleavages” in the country
- Constitution provides access to government
 - Committee process, halls of congress, congressional offices, etc.
- Political parties are weak

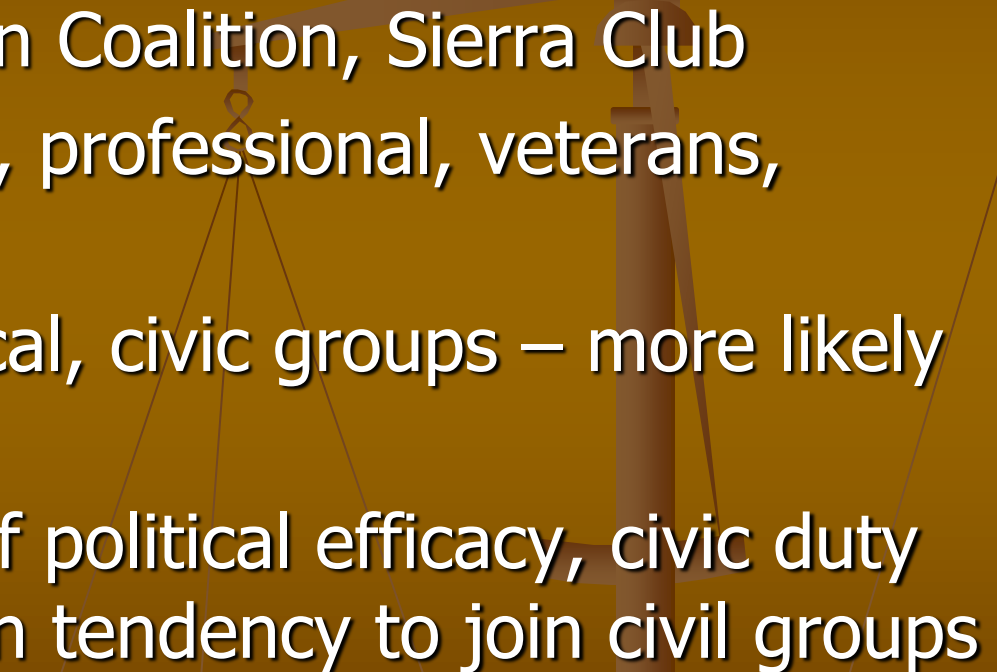


Two Types of I.G.'s

1. Institutional interests: an interest group that represents other organizations
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Business firms: General Motors
 - Trade of governmental associations
 - Concerns: bread and butter issues of concern to their clients
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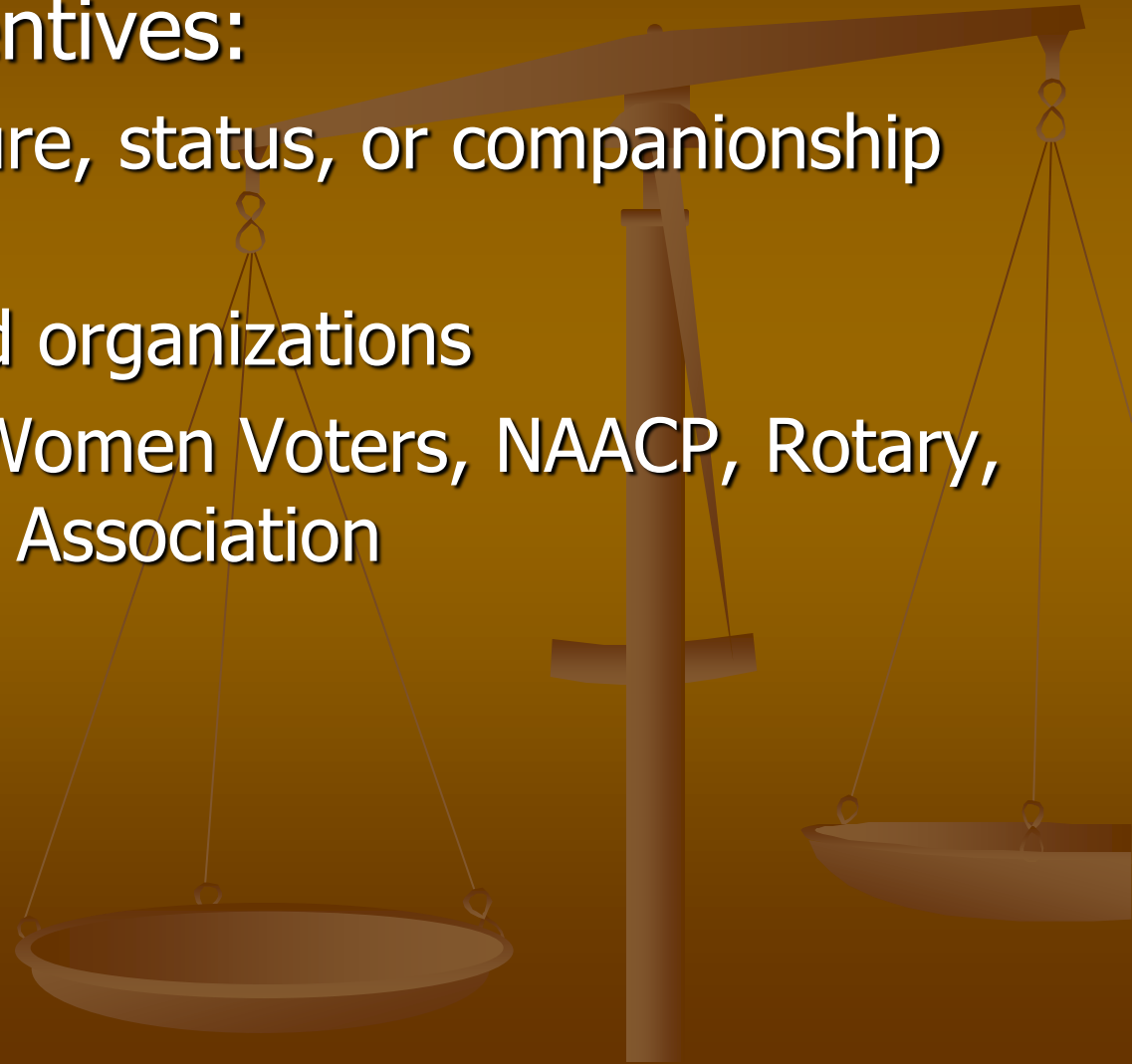
Two Types of I.G.'s (cont.)

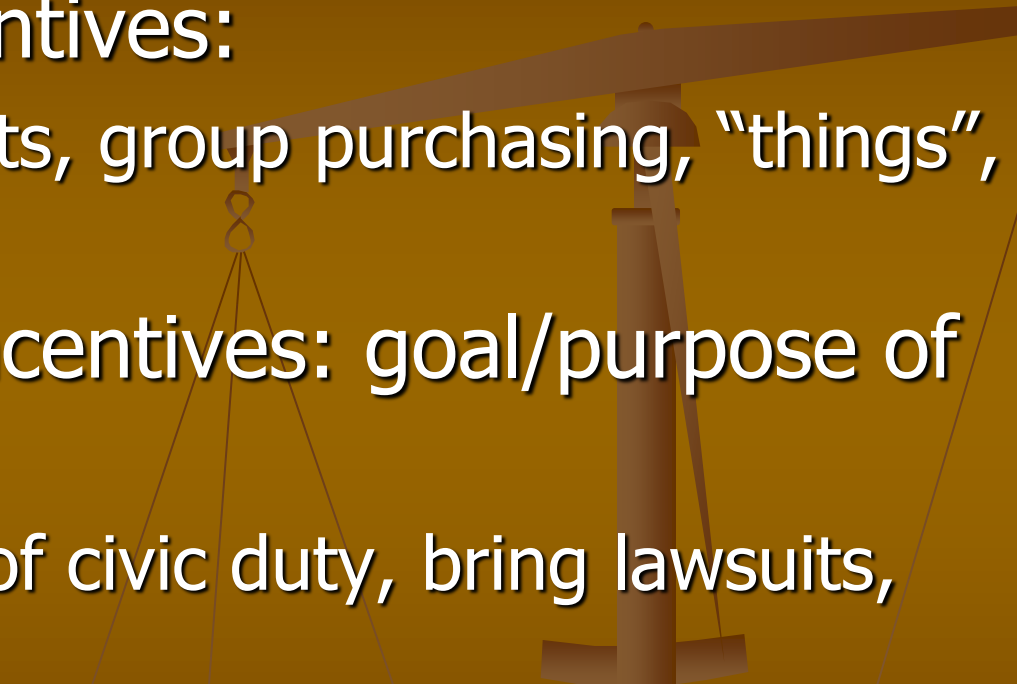
2. Membership Interests

- NAACP, Christian Coalition, Sierra Club
 - Social, business, professional, veterans, charitable
 - Religious, political, civic groups – more likely to join
 - Greater sense of political efficacy, civic duty seems to explain tendency to join civil groups
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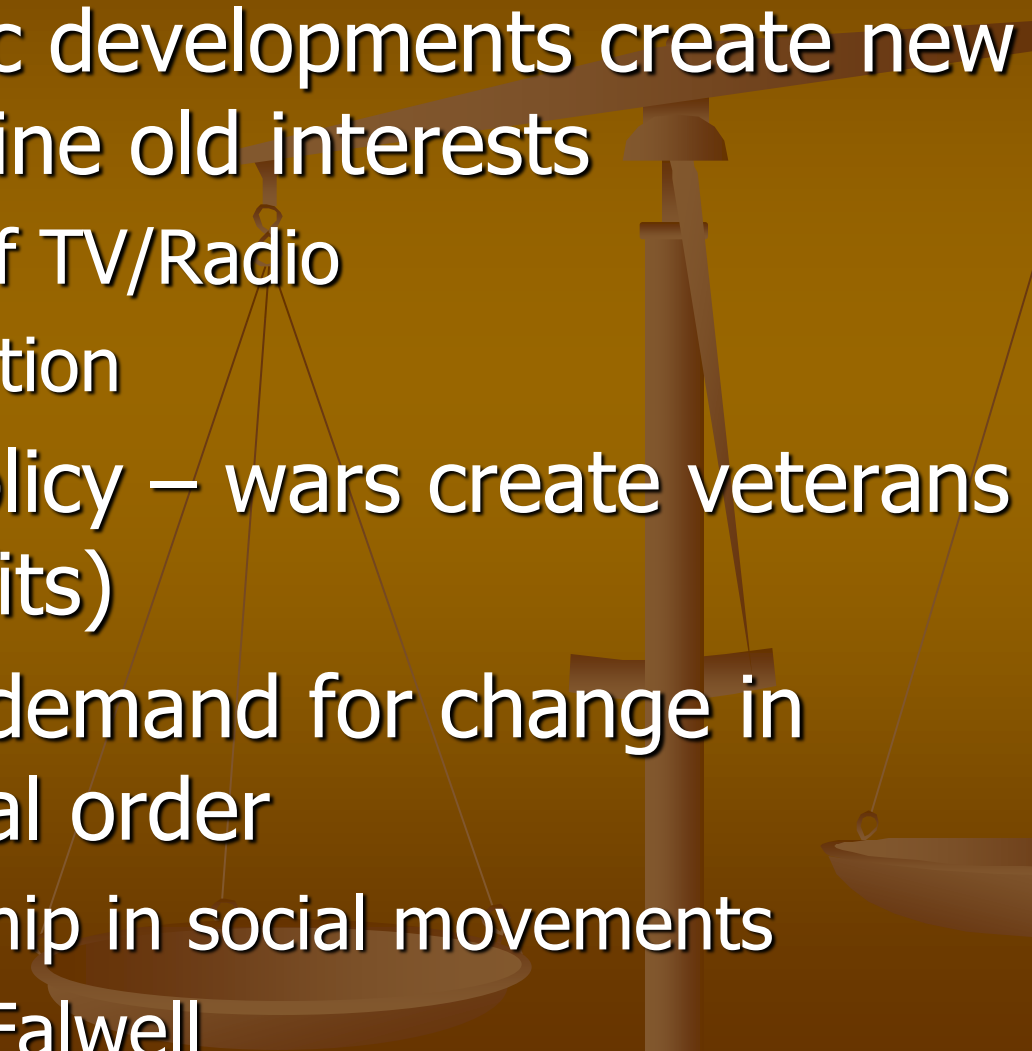
Incentives to Join

- 1) Solidary Incentives:
 - Sense of pleasure, status, or companionship in joining
 - service-oriented organizations
 - Ex: League of Women Voters, NAACP, Rotary, Parent-Teacher Association



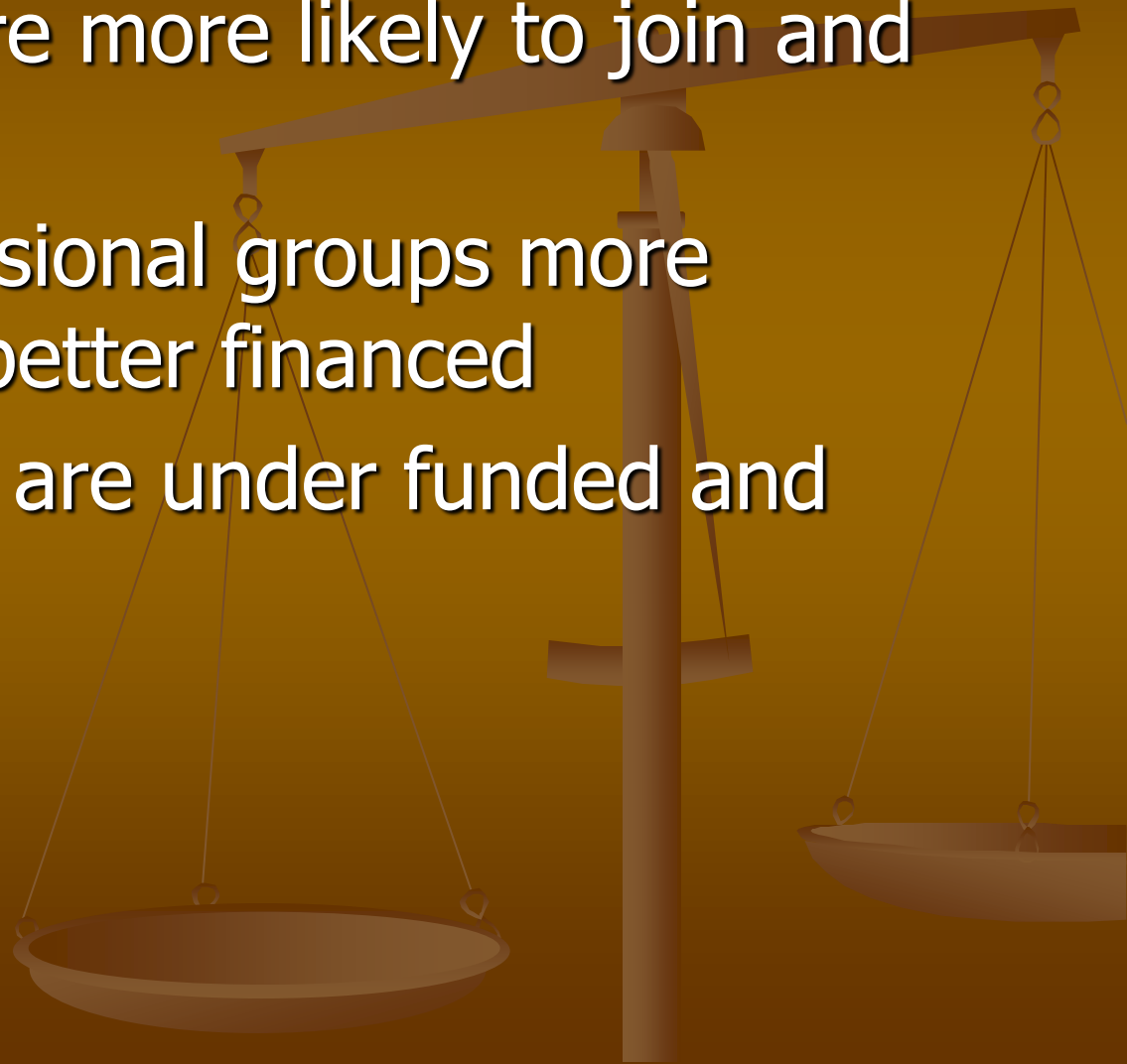
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- 2) Material Incentives:
 - money, discounts, group purchasing, “things”, services
 - 3) Purposeful Incentives: goal/purpose of organization
 - Passion, sense of civic duty, bring lawsuits, research

Explaining the Rise of I.G.'s

- Broad economic developments create new interests, redefine old interests
 - Broadcasting of TV/Radio
 - Internet revolution
 - Government Policy – wars create veterans (demand benefits)
 - Widely shared demand for change in social or political order
 - Strong leadership in social movements
 - MLK Jr., Jerry Falwell
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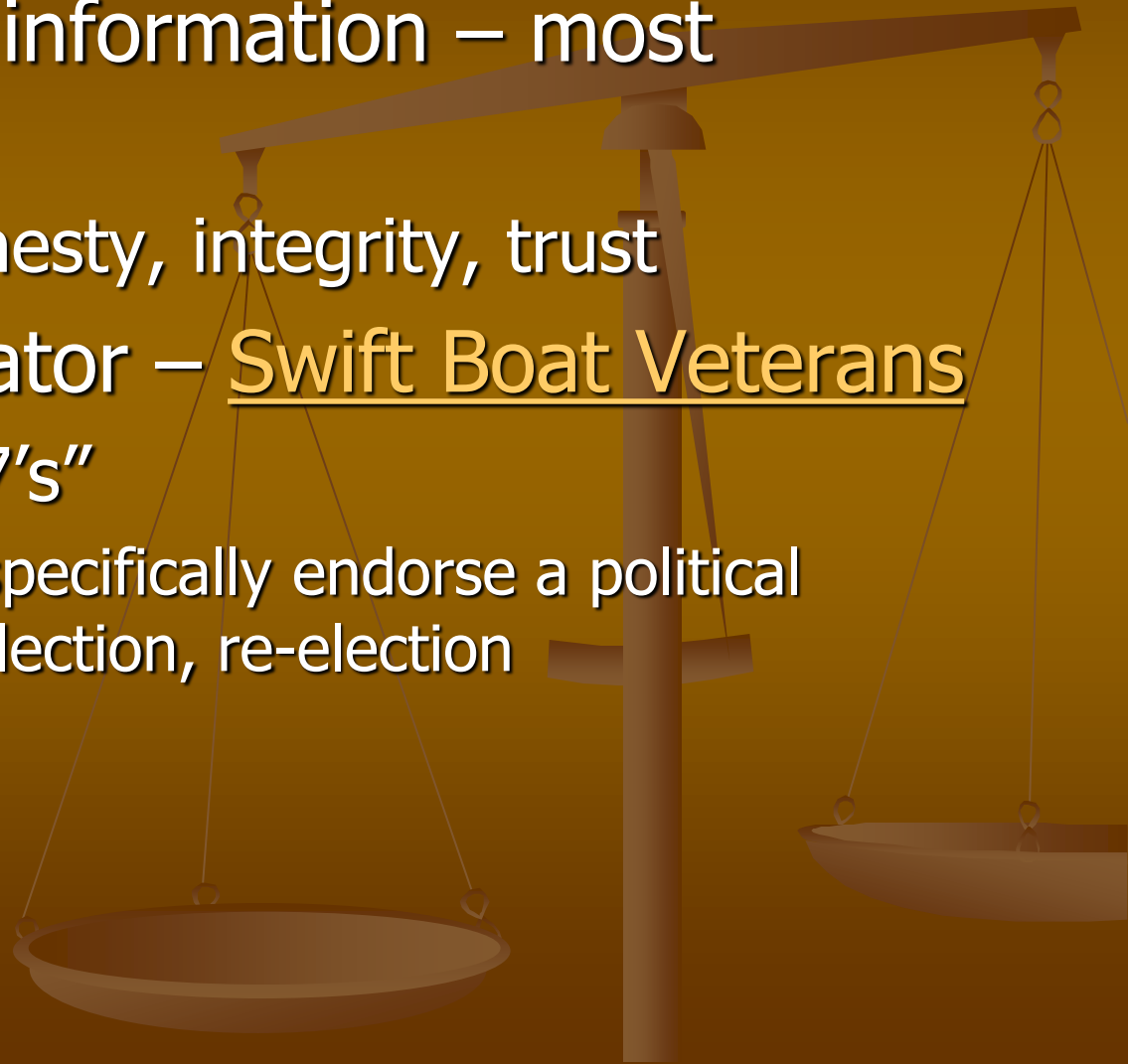
Problem of Membership

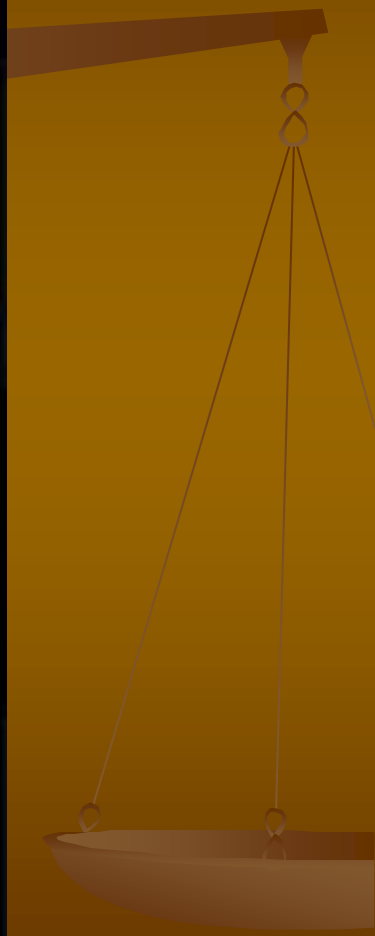
- More affluent are more likely to join and be active
- Business/professional groups more numerous and better financed
- Minority groups are under funded and supported



Activities of Interest Groups

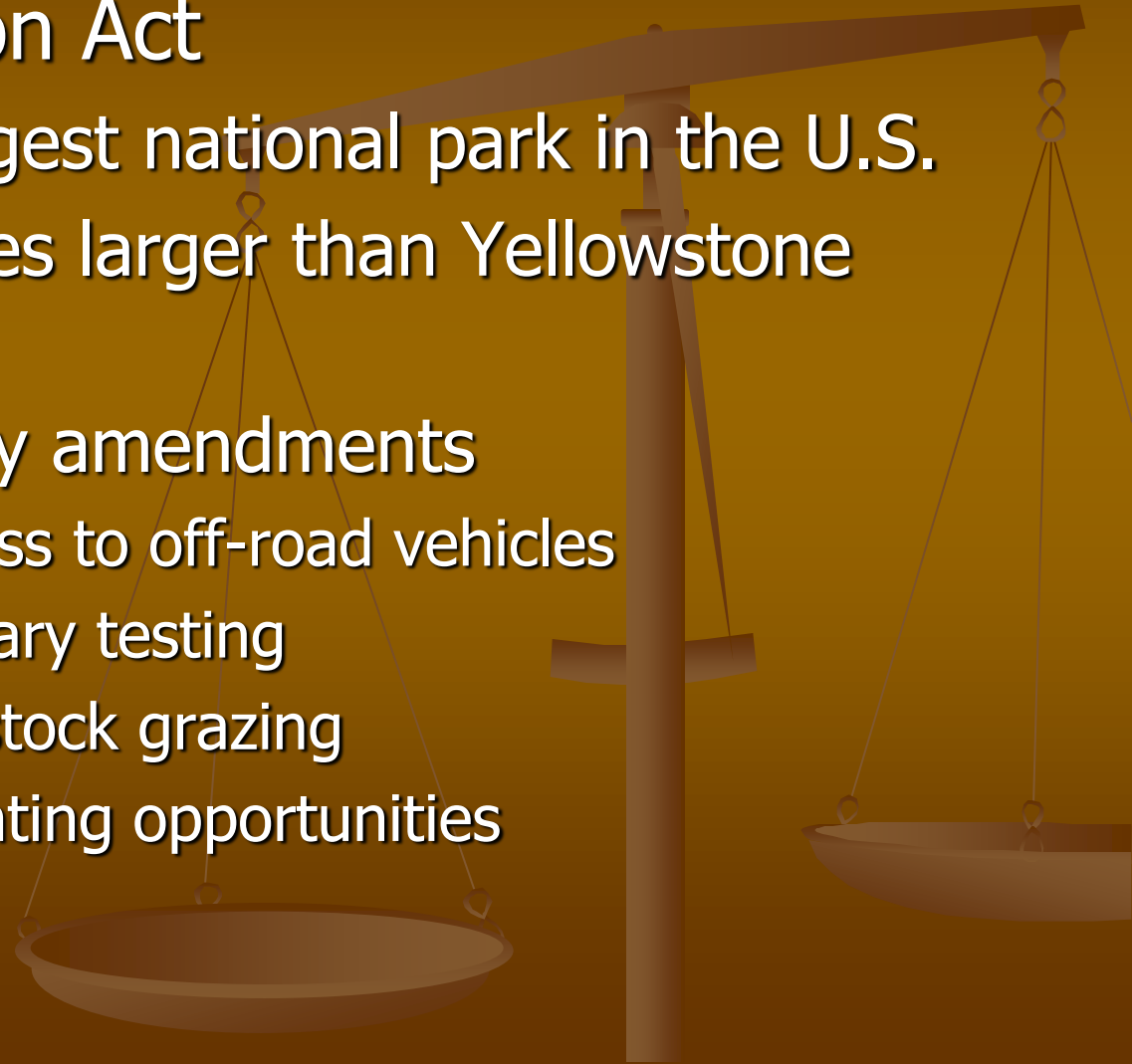
- Supply credible information – most important tactic
 - Key values: honesty, integrity, trust
- Destroy a legislator – Swift Boat Veterans
 - The use of “527’s”
 - 527 = cannot specifically endorse a political candidate for election, re-election





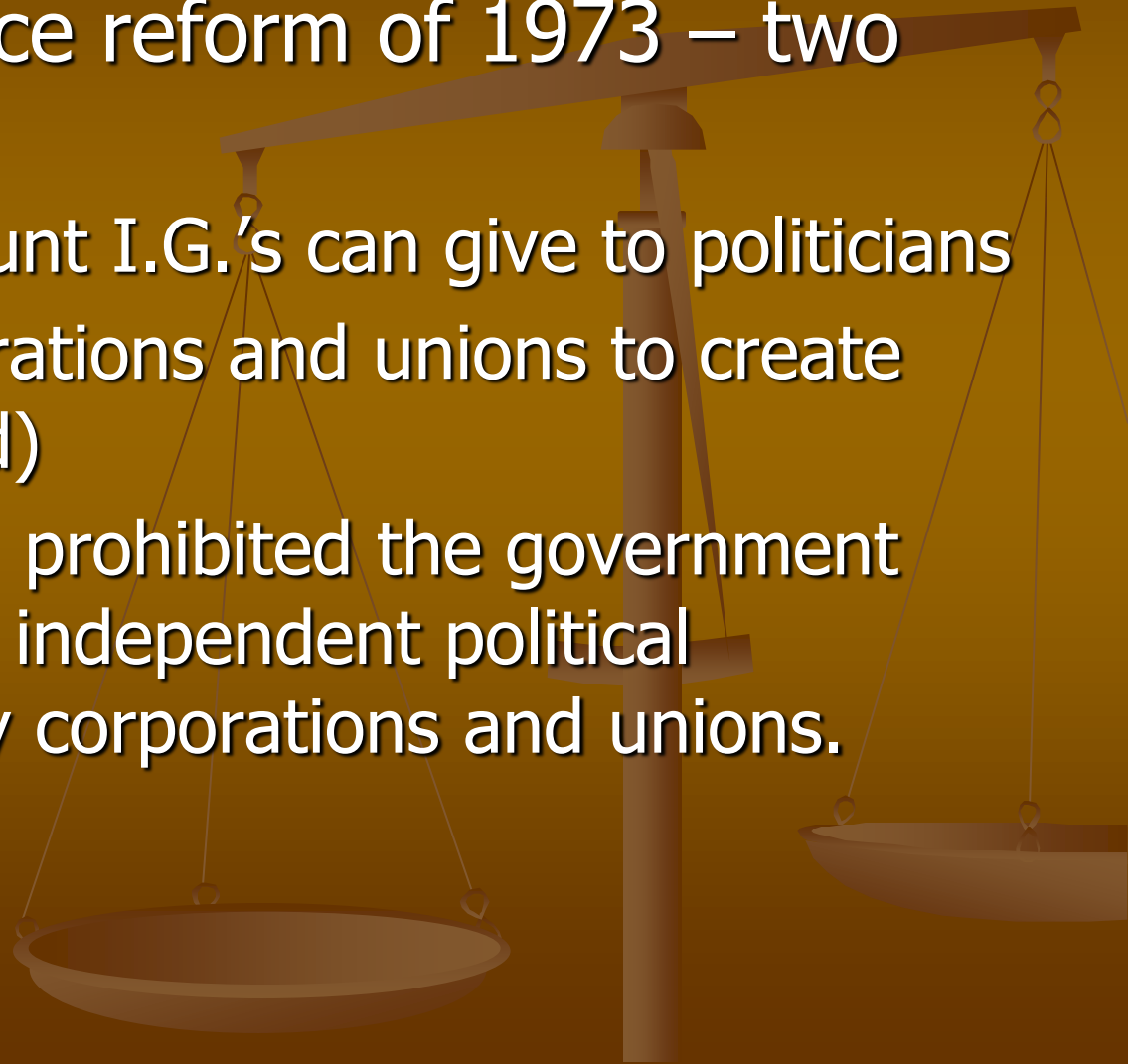
Mojave Result

- Desert Protection Act
 - Created the largest national park in the U.S.
 - One million acres larger than Yellowstone National Park
 - Passed with fifty amendments
 - Increased access to off-road vehicles
 - Expanded military testing
 - Continued livestock grazing
 - Maintained hunting opportunities



Money and PACs

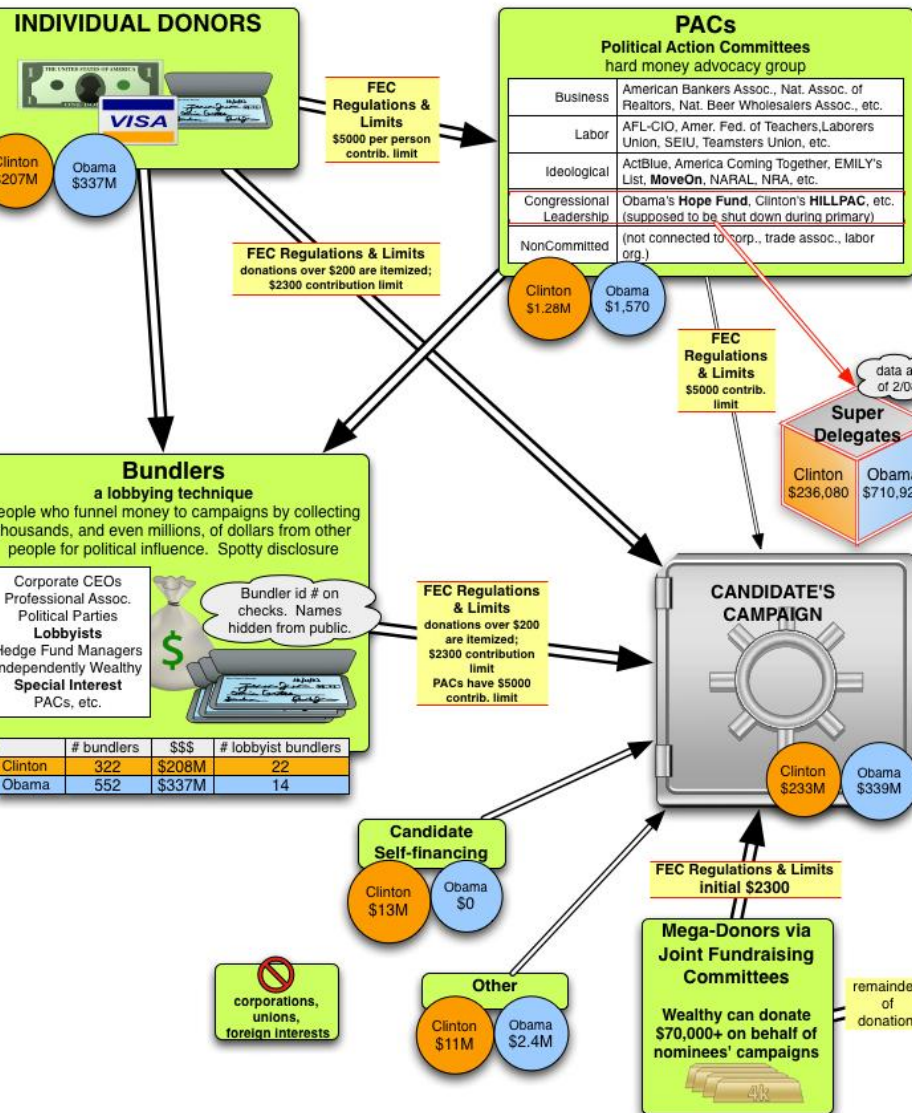
- Campaign finance reform of 1973 – two effects
 - Restricted amount I.G.'s can give to politicians
 - Legal for corporations and unions to create PACs (regulated)
 - Citizens United: prohibited the government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions.



CAMPAIGN MONEY FLOW

"HARD" MONEY

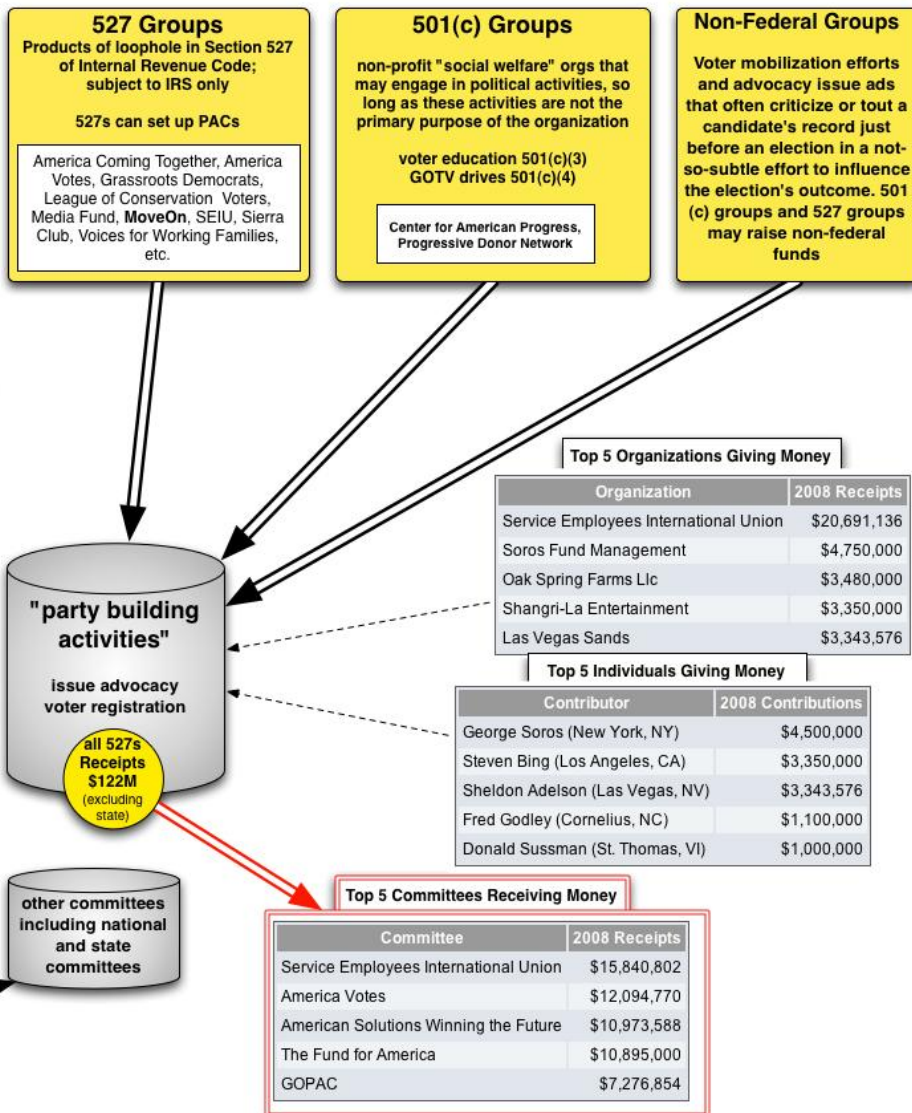
(for the express purpose of electing or defeating candidates)



"SOFT" MONEY

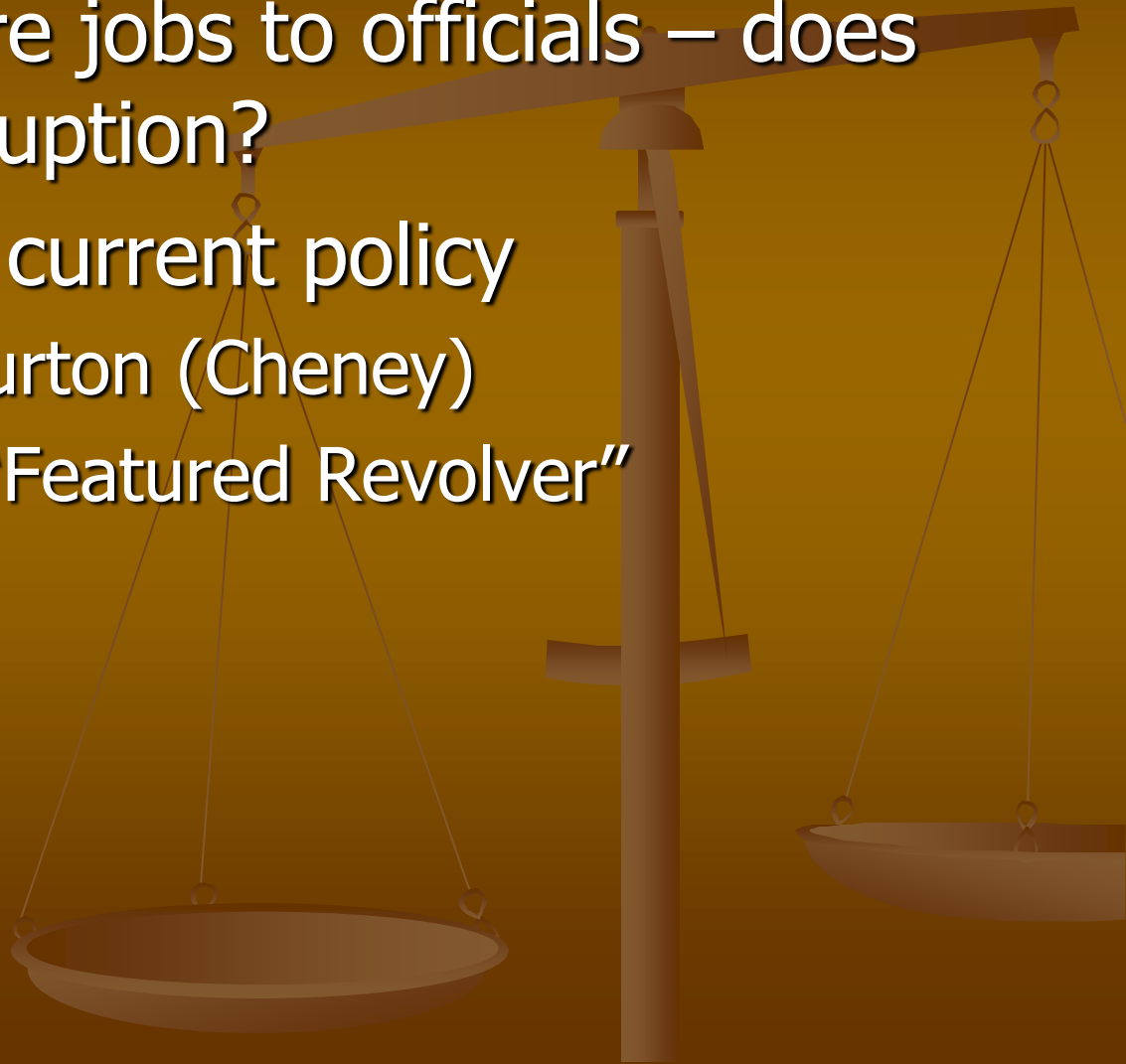
FEC Regulations & Limits

(for advocacy groups)



The “Revolving Door”

- Promise of future jobs to officials – does this lead to corruption?
- Past jobs affect current policy
 - Example: Haliburton (Cheney)
 - Open Secrets: “Featured Revolver”



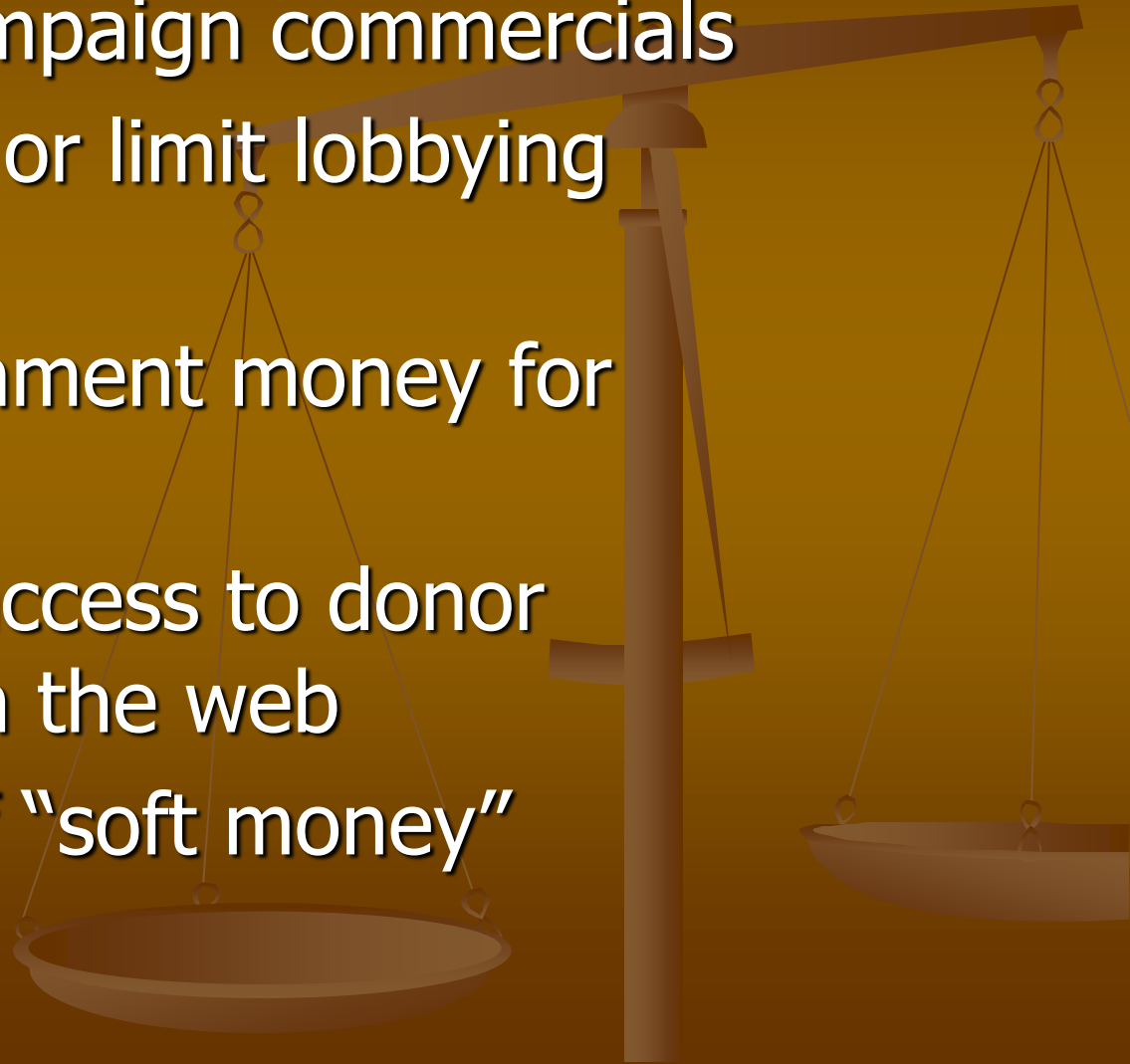
Regulating Interest Groups



- Protection by the 1st Amendment –
- 1995 act provided a broad definition of lobbying
 - Requires reports twice a year, client names, expenditures, issues, etc.
 - No enforcement agency
 - Tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations cannot receive federal grants if they lobby

Controlling Lobbying

- Provide free campaign commercials
- Limit spending, or limit lobbying altogether
- Use only government money for campaigns
- Create instant access to donor contributions on the web
- Ban all forms of “soft money”



The End!

- That's it, we're done...now study for the AP Exam☺

