

on a not-for-profit basis, such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. 1/ Congress has also directed the formation of private, profit-making corporations for purposes such as creating a communications satellite network, 2/ encouraging the production of low and moderate income housing, 3/ providing inter-city rail passenger service, 4/ and administering valuable rights in natural resources. 5/

Moreover, private corporations organized at the initiative of private citizens -- rather than by Congressional charter or direction -- play an ever more significant role in performing essentially public functions in the United States. These entities often take the form of non-profit membership corporations in which membership is open to anyone willing to purchase a subscription or contribute dues to be used toward a shared objective such as providing consumer information (Consumers' Union) or influencing certain matters of public policy (Common Cause).

Another, more pervasive, form of such institution is the homeowners' association. These associations are

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1/ 47 U.S.C. §396.

2/ Communications Satellite Corporation, 47 U.S.C. §§731-743.

3/ National Corporation for Housing Partnerships, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3931-3941.

4/ National Railroad Passenger Corporation, 45 U.S.C. §§541-548.

5/ Regional and Village Alaskan Native Corporations, 43 U.S.C. §§1606-1607.