

The original documents are located in Box 29, “4/12/76 - Remarks Upon Vetoing H.R. 8617 (Hatch Act Amendment)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

STATEMENT FOR VETO OF HATCH ACT REPEAL

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1976

I AM RETURNING TO THE CONGRESS TODAY

WITHOUT MY SIGNATURE A BILL THAT WOULD LIFT THE BAN

AGAINST PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY FEDERAL

CIVIL SERVANTS.

FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS, UNDER THE HATCH ACT,

CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED AN ACTIVE ROLE

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS; \ THEY CAN VOTE, \

THEY CAN ATTEND RALLIES AND CONVENTIONS, \ AND

THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE.

HOWEVER, THE HATCH ACT HAS ALSO PROHIBITED
CIVIL SERVANTS FROM ENGAGING IN OTHER, MORE PARTISAN
ACTIVITIES SUCH AS POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST PARTISAN POLITICS IN THE
CIVIL SERVICE WAS WRITTEN INTO THE LAW FOR TWO VERY SOUND
AND WORTHWHILE REASONS: TO ASSURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
THAT THEIR AFFAIRS WERE BEING CONDUCTED WITH AN EYE
ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST, NOT A PARTISAN INTEREST,
AND TO PROTECT CIVIL SERVANTS THEMSELVES FROM
UNDUE POLITICAL COERCION.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN VALID

FOR THE LAST FOUR DECADES ARE STILL VALID TODAY.

THE PUBLIC BUSINESS OF OUR GOVERNMENT MUST BE CONDUCTED

WITHOUT THE ~~WHIFF~~ OR TAINT OF PARTISAN POLITICS.

to the Congress

I AM THEREFORE RETURNING THIS BILL WITHOUT MY APPROVAL.

END OF REMARKS