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March 23, 1976

SUBJECT: HATCH ACT

Yesterday House-Senate conferees reached a compromise on H.R. 8617, the Federal Employees Political Act, but it appears that there is sufficient strength in the Senate to sustain a threatened Presidential veto.

The Administration has been threatening a veto for quite a while. Now that the bill is in final form, will the President veto it?

GUIDANCE:As you know, the President feels that H.R. 8617, the Federal Employees Political Act, is a poor bill. We feel that identification of Federal employees with partisan politics will deprive them of the protection they now have against improper political pressure.

This legislation would be a major step backward to the situation that existed before the Civil Service Reform movement in the 1880's when government job tenure depended on political affiliation rather than professional competency.

As to a veto, the President wants to see the bill in final form before he makes a commitment.

ME

November 6, 1975

SUBJECT:

HATCH ACT PENDING IN SENATE

A bill to liberalize the Hatch Act passed the House last month and is now being considered by the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Bob Hampton has stated that President Ford will veto the Hatch Act.

Is it correct, as Bob Hampton stated, that the President will veto the Hatch Act?

GUIDANCE: Bob Hampton did attend a meeting with the President on Tuesday, November 4, concerning the President's Panel on Federal Compensation. It is my understanding that prior to that meeting Bob Hampton and the President did talk about the Hatch Act and the President did say that he was opposed to the legislation and would veto it.

Why is the President so opposed to amending the Hatch Act?

GUIDANCE: The President feels that H.R. 8617, the Federal Employees Political Act, is a poor bill. We feel that identification of Federal employees with partisan politics will deprive them of the protection they now have against improper political pressures.

This legislation would be a major step backward to the situation that existed before the Civil Service Reform movement in the 1880's when government job tenure depended on political affiliation rather than professional competency.

JGC

October 22, 1975

SUBJECT:

HATCH ACT AMENDED

The House yesterday approved legislation repealing the Hatch Act ban on partisan political activity by Federal employees. The bill now goes to the Senate.

What's the Administration's position on the amendments approved by the House regarding the Hatch Act?

GUIDANCE: The Administration feels that H.R. 8617, the Federal Employees Political Act, is a poor bill. We feel that identification of Federal employees with partisan politics will deprive them of the protection they now have against improper political pressures.

This legislation would be a major step backward to the situation that existed before the Civil Service Reform movement in 1880's when government job tenure depended on political affiliation rather than professional competency.

Will the President veto this legislation if and when it reaches his desk?

GUIDANCE: The bill must now go to the Senate and then possibly a conference, so I think it would be premature to speculate what the President might do until we do see the language in the final bill, should it reach his desk.

JGC