

**The original documents are located in Box 119, folder “Holt, John E.” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM: BILL ROBERTS

SUBJECT: GSA DISMISSAL OF JOHN E. HOLT

Q: What is the President doing about the letter from Victoria Holt asking the President to prevent the dismissal of her father John E. Holt?

A: I understand Mr. Holt has the right to appeal his case to the Civil Service Commission and there are reports that an appeal is planned in his behalf. He would have fifteen days from time of dismissal to file that appeal. I think it would be desirable to get the full facts of the matter. And for that the Civil Service Commission is responsible, [REDACTED] I would think that the President would not want the dismissal of any Federal employee for expressing his or her views, provided that does not affect the work of the agency.

BACKGROUND:

FYI--This appears to be a sticky case, with little, if any involvement of freedom of speech. The Civil Service Commission says Holt filed an appeal in late 1972 from a change in status. He was reassigned from being a "supervisory computer specialist," to being a "research and planning specialist," in a GSA reorganization. There was no loss of grade (15) or salary. And the Civil Service Commission denied Holt's appeal, and his request to reconsider it. The GSA says it cannot make public, by law, the reasons for Holt's dismissal, but denies there was any recrimination against Holt for opposing FEDNET. In fact GSA Administrator Arthur F. Holt says he was not aware until now that Holt had opposed it. THE GSA AND THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RECOMMEND THE PRESIDENT STAY OUT OF THE MATTER.



THE FIRING OF JOHN E. HOLT BY THE GSA

QUESTION: What is the President doing about the letter Victoria Holt has written him concerning the firing of her father?

ANSWER: A response to Miss Holt's letter is expected in the very near future.

FYI ONLY: Phil Buchen's office hopes to have the answer completed late today or tomorrow.

END FYI



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1974

LETTER MAILED A.M. October 7, 1974

Dear Miss Holt:

This is in reply to your letter to President Ford dated September 24, 1974, in which you asked him for assistance relating to your father's dismissal from the General Services Administration.

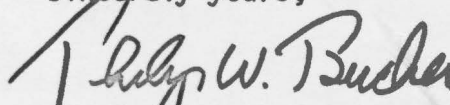
The President asked this office to consider the matter.

When we made inquiries, we found that the issue in this removal case of work performance was under further review by a three-person panel, and we delayed writing you until this procedure had been completed. It seemed only appropriate that we should allow the adopted procedures to take their course.

Today we are advised that as a result, the removal decision has been rescinded and that your father is being given opportunity to remain in his position or to seek reassignment.

Under these circumstances, I am sure you will feel most gratified.

Sincerely yours,



Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Miss Victoria Holt  
P.O. Box 3134  
University Park  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

