

The original documents are located in Box 46, folder “President - Honoraria” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert T. Hartmann
FROM: William E. Casselman II 
SUBJECT: Acceptance of Honoraria

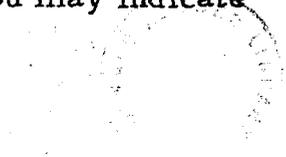
You have asked for my advice on the handling of an honorarium recently sent to you after having made a speaking appearance. The letter accompanying the check indicated that it was unsolicited and intended "for you or your favorite charity." The guidelines governing the standards of conduct for all members of the White House staff specifically address the question of receipt of honoraria by White House officials, and provide that:

"7. Honoraria and Compensation for Speeches, Teaching and Writing

As a general policy, a White House staff member should not accept an honorarium or compensation for speeches, lectures, teaching or writing on a subject which is in any way related to his official position or to the operations or activities of the White House staff or the Executive Office of the President. "

Neither these guidelines nor the regulations governing standards of conduct address themselves to donations of honoraria to charity. In the past, such donations to charity have been permitted on the basis that there is no benefit to the White House official as long as no appearance of a conflict of interest is presented. However, such charitable donations should not be made by the White House official, but rather by the person actually making the donation.

I recommend, therefore, that you return the check in question to the sender and explain that you cannot personally receive honoraria on behalf of yourself or your favorite charity. However, you may indicate



to them your favorite charities should they still wish to make a donation.

I must also advise you that by handling it in this manner, an argument might be made by IRS that you have received directed income which you must report as taxable income. However, you would then be entitled to a charitable deduction in this same amount (unless your charitable deductions already exceed thirty percent of your adjusted gross income). I would suggest that you advise whomever prepares your tax returns of this matter in order that he might determine whether this need be included as income to you.

Enclosure

cc: Philip W. Buchen

