

The original documents are located in Box 55, folder “1976/01/23 - David Lissy” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DAVID LISSY
Friday, January 23, 1976
4:00 p.m.

Mr. Cannon's Office

Cham. file, but make copy for P.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1976

*David -
lets
discuss
Jim*

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

In regard to the attached memo to you of January 13 from David Lissy, I sympathize with his problems and commend his good judgment about the restraint he has exercised in declining to participate in what may be perceived as political activities.


In the last paragraph of his memo, he talks about wearing "two hats" with one being of a type that does not involve the Hatch Act restrictions. Unfortunately, the Hatch Act does not allow for such bifurcation.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: DAVID LISS 
SUBJECT: Hatch Act Problems

Two illustrations of the kind of problem I face:

1. I was asked to find a speaker for and subsequently was asked by someone else to speak at a meeting of Jewish leaders who will be in town next Monday and Tuesday to meet with candidates or their representatives. This would not be a campaign appearance in the sense of soliciting votes. It would just be an opportunity to answer questions about the President's stands on issues.

I had to indicate I could not help out.

2. I will be in Philadelphia in a few weeks to meet with leaders of the Philadelphia Jewish community -- on a non-partisan basis -- to discuss issues of concern to the community. It would make sense for me to have a separate smaller meeting with those leaders of the community who support the President so I could discuss with them political steps we should take -- or action they should take to get organized. I believe the Hatch Act restrictions would prohibit my participation in such a meeting.


I had a similar situation when I was in Los Angeles. I met with leaders of the Jewish Community there, but felt I could not get into any political discussions.



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As we discussed, this situation needs to be clarified. The problem is not time. I can and want to devote most of my time to substantive work. I believe I could wear two hats, be un-Hatched in one and still do justice to my Domestic Council responsibilities. I am also not suggesting that once un-Hatched I would do blatantly political work but it is really illogical to have me represent the President to the Jewish community and not be able to address the political aspects of the situation for the coming year.