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Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 12224

Initiation Date*:	2017-05-01
Title*:	Non purview/Hatch Act
Question*:	<p>From: Susan [mailto:(b) (6)] Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 1:41 PM To: Contact OGE Subject: Hatch Act Violation by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on 2016-04-29 at Trump Campaign Rally</p> <p>I am writing to lodge an official complaint against Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross for his activities on April 29, 2017 at a Trump Campaign rally in Harrisburg. Not only did Secretary Ross accompany Mr. Trump to the event, he was photographed signing Trump/Pence campaign signs and going around the room actively complaining. This event was promoted as a campaign rally (so they could legally limit attendees to just supporters). It was paid for with campaign funds. The Hatch Act of 1939 states that, apart from the President and Vice President, no other Executive Branch employee can use his or her position to campaign for a candidate. This means sitting cabinet members are forbidden from participating in campaign events of any type.</p> <p>I am also lodging an official complaint against White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who may have violated the Hatch Act just by tweeting out a photo of Secretary Ross signing a campaign sign (link https://twitter.com/SHSanders45/status/858523832331776000), and by adding Trump's "MAGA" campaign slogan as a caption.</p> <p>If you need a copy of the above twitter photo, let me know. I can upload it to you upon request.</p> <p>This whole administration is nothing but a conflict of interest. From the Trump kids, to the phony trusts, to allowing them to sit on official meetings with heads of state before they have security clearances. I am a retired IRS agent (37 5 yrs, auditing mostly corporations & exempt organizations, including political organizations and trusts). I was not even allowed to put a candidate's bumper sticker on my car because of the impression it might give a taxpayer about who or what I supported. The Hatch Act was drilled into us all the time, and it was clear there was zero tolerance. Believe it or not, I had no idea what political parties my supervisors belonged to or supported. That is the way it is supposed to be.</p> <p>What is good for the goose is good for the gander. If these people don't want to abide by the rules, they should suffer the consequences. And be fired.</p> <p>Susan B. Johnson (b) (6) Ph: (b) (6)</p>
Update:	
Categories*:	Hatch Act
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Public Citizen
First Name:	
Last Name:	
Title:	
Position:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Suzanne L. Meyer
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
<i>created by:</i>	Suzanne L. Meyer

Resolution Information	
Resolution Date*:	2017-05-01
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	<p>From: Contact OGE Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 2:24 PM To: 'Susan' Subject: RE: Hatch Act Viola ion by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on 2016-04-29 at Trump Campaign Rally</p> <p>Dear Ms. Johnson:</p> <p>Thank you for your email to Contact OGE.</p> <p>OGE was established by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to be the office responsible for setting policies aimed at the prevention of conflicts of interest in the executive branch of the Federal Government. OGE is a small agency within the executive branch and assists other executive branch departments and agencies to implement ethics rules and policies hat deal with conflict-of-interest laws, post-employment restrictions, the standards of ethical conduct, and the public and confidential financial disclosure systems for executive branch federal employees.</p> <p>OGE's jurisdic ion extends only to the specific ethics issues described above within the executive branch of the U.S. Government. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) oversees the Hatch Act. The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. For information on the Hatch Act, please visit OSC at https://osc.gov/Pages/HatchAct.aspx.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Contact OGE U.S. Office of Government E hics</p> <p><i>(Assigned to: Suzanne L. Meyer)</i></p>
Complexity (level):	1 <input type="text" value="[Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]"/>
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	
<input type="button" value="reopen"/>	

Interaction History Log	
Closed	05/01/2017 02:26:06 PM by Suzanne L. Meyer
Now Assigned: Suzanne L. Meyer	05/01/2017 02:26:06 PM by Suzanne L. Meyer

Division(s) assigned: PCD



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Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 13459

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Initiation Date*:	2017-09-25
Title*:	Question about complaints against President and Press Secretary (The Wrap)
Question*:	<p>Hi Elizabeth,</p> <p>How are you?</p> <p>My name is Itay Hod. I'm a reporter for TheWrap.</p> <p>The Democratic Coalition filed three separate ethics complaints -- two against Sarah Huckabee Sanders and one against President Trump -- over the last 10 days.</p> <p>Has the OGE received them? Has an investigation been opened?</p> <p>Would love to get some info on this and what the timeline maybe going forward.</p> <p>Can someone from the office please contact me as soon as possible?</p> <p>Thanks</p>
Update:	
Categories*:	Other
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	Itay
Last Name:	Hod
Title:	Senior Reporter, The Wrap
Position:	
Email:	(b) (6)
Phone:	(b) (6) (Office); (b) (6) (Cell)
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Elizabeth D. Horton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	Elizabeth D. Horton

Resolution Information

Resolution Date*:	2017-09-25
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	<p>I told the reporter that OGE had no comment and told him on background that 18.U.S.C. 227 is outside of OGE's purview and referred him to DOJ.</p> <p>(Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)</p>
Complexity (level):	1
	[Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]

Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	
<input type="button" value="reopen"/>	

Interaction History Log	
Closed	09/25/2017 03:20:57 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Create	09/25/2017 03:06:27 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	09/25/2017 03:06:27 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Division(s) assigned: PCD