

Mr. CROOK (reading):

You may not assume a position of political leadership or become prominently identified with any political party or candidate.

Is that it?

Mr. GARDNER. Yes.

Mr. CROOK (continues reading):

You may not publicly support or speak in behalf of or against a given political party or political candidate. You may, however, take positions in support of or opposition to the passage or repeal of laws and ordinances and support or oppose ordinances which are not specifically identified with a political party or which are the subject of non-political elections such as referendums, bond issues, constitutional amendment or the like.

Mr. GARDNER. Or possibly a mayor's race in a city or city council race? Do you think this would also be included? If you had a VISTA member come to you and ask if he could be involved in a mayor's race in a city or city council race what would you tell him?

Mr. CROOK. I would tell him no, that that is a political office.

Mr. GARDNER. Thank you.

(The following guidelines were submitted for the record:)

VISTA POLITICAL GUIDELINES

The VISTA approach to individual and community development is predicated on the assumption that real change among people can only occur when they themselves take the initiative. VISTA's mission is to work with people in their communities towards this end.

This means that you as a VISTA Volunteer during your service should subordinate your personal views on specific issues to the primary goal of helping build a community able and determined to arrive at its own decisions, and to assert its own proper influence.

The goal of community development will be frustrated if you impose your own judgments on others, no matter how valid these judgments are. This would prevent the people you are serving from developing into responsible citizens actively involved and participating in the life of their community.

In addition to the limitations implicit in the goals of community development, there are certain prohibitions imposed by the new amendments to our Act.

The following is intended to advise and assist you in carrying out your job effectively.

A. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Because of recent amendments to our act, you as a VISTA Volunteer are now considered a Federal employee for purposes of the Hatch Act. As a result you may not engage in partisan political activities of any sort during your service. You may not assume a position of political leadership or become prominently identified with any political party or candidate. You may not publicly support or speak in behalf of or against a given political party or political candidate. You may, however, take positions in support of or opposition to the passage or repeal of laws and ordinances, and support or oppose issues which are not specifically identified with a political party or which are the subject of non-political elections, such as referendums, bond issues, constitutional amendments, or the like. You may participate in petitions and drives provided the petition is not associated with any political party or candidate.

Your work as a Volunteer may in some instances call for your working independently, or under your sponsor, to inform citizens of their political rights and to encourage them to participate in the political life of their community. In carrying out any of these activities, however, you must take care not to work, or appear to be working, in support of any party or candidate. It must be remembered that as a VISTA Volunteer it is of utmost importance that your efforts be primarily directed toward encouraging participation of the people you serve, rather than in action on your own, or in their behalf. The individuals you are working with should be allowed to make their own decisions on which party or candidate