

White House

Staff's New Ethics Code

Washington

President Ford has had a new ethical code drawn up for all White House employees and they have been asked to attend 90-minute briefing sessions to assure they understand it.

The eight-page code spells out ethical concepts and legal restrictions in such areas as conflict of interest, acceptance of gifts, political activities and contact with regulatory agencies.

After the code and a packet of federal statutes were distributed to White House employees, staffers were asked to attend one of several 90-minute briefings initiated by chief of staff Donald Rumsfeld and the White House counsel's office.

Most of the 600 White House staffers have attended one of the briefings, Jerry Jones, staff assistant to Mr. Ford, said. Another briefing will be held for the rest, about 100, he said.

Jones said that there has always been a written standard of conduct for White House staffers, but that many portions of it were vague and had to be rewrit-

ten.

"Everyone is terribly concerned about this, given what we've gone through in the last three years," Jones said.

Associated Press