

Stricter Rules for Ford and His Staff

Washington

Vice President Gerald Ford, whose personal finances underwent intense scrutiny prior to his confirmation, is having strict rules drafted to guard against conflicts of interest in his new office.

"Our standards are going to be as high or higher than anywhere else in the federal service," said Robert T. Hartmann, Ford's chief of staff.

The rules, which would govern acceptance of gifts and honorariums, investments and other outside fi-

nancial activities, are being drafted by Ford's legal counsel, William E. Casselman II.

While the rules are intended mainly to cover Ford's senior staff, Hartmann said that the Vice President would consult Casselman on Ford's own financial in-

volvements.

Ford had been subjected to "the most exacting examination" in his confirmation hearings, Hartmann said, and had emerged "free and clear. We're starting off so high," he said, "I don't want anything to spoil it."

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