

Fired GSA Employee Gets Rating Improved

By William Gilder
Washington Post Staff Writer

A General Services Administration job review panel ruled yesterday that the rating of computer expert John E. Holt, who has been fired from his GSA job with the personal approval of GSA administrator Arthur F. Sampson, should be changed from unsatisfactory to satisfactory.

The vote of the GSA's job performance rating committee was 2 to 1. Holt had previously been informed by Sampson that today would be his last day of work because of unsatisfactory work performance. The committee action does not overrule Sampson's decision.

The 44-year-old Holt, a 22-year veteran in government service, filed a complaint in 1971 against the collection of money by GSA officials from GSA employees to be used for political funds for President Nixon. The Civil Service Commission later found six GSA officials guilty of Hatch Act violations.

Holt also spoke out this year against a since-scrapped massive computer data bank project known as FEDNET.

"We had the option of sus-

taining the unsatisfactory rating or reverting the unsatisfactory rating to satisfactory," said Robert M. Teates, a member of the three-person review committee.

"There are no grounds other than that to fire the man on," Teates said. "They are basing everything on the unsatisfactory performance rating. This is my understanding of it. I think they would have brought anything else out."

Teates said that the review panel was told by a GSA personnel official that "our decision was final."

Holt's daughter, Victoria, has asked President Ford in a letter "to step in and prevent the dismissal," charging there have been "deliberate attempts to demoralize and degrade" Holt since the Hatch Act violations were pointed out. A White House spokesman said last night a letter was being prepared for Miss Holt and that it was hoped an answer would be ready today.

The GSA review panel was made up of Teates, who was selected by Holt; a representative of management, and a third party selected by the other two representatives.