

THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season -- a time for good cheer!
For egg nog, for parties, for friends to be near.
But I must be careful
Lest I accept free
A gift not permitted, no matter how wee.

Part two six three five of the 5 CFR
Explains in detail the relevant bar.
It defines the term gift
To mean all things worth money.
That's NBA tickets or jars full of honey.

Some gifts may be taken but some are
verboten.
The source is the key -- it's the rule that I'm
quotin'.
When from me or others
The source seeks some act,
I must find an exception or I could be sacked.

Even others who give can cause problems for
me.
If my job prompts the giving -- my position, you
see.
But lucky for me,
Some exceptions exist.
They're in subpart B and they should not be
missed.

I can pay market value if the gift I do like,
Or I can at my option say "go take a hike."
I can always say no,
But I need not decline.
If worth twenty or less then the gift can be
mine.

This exception has prompted some very loud
hollers.
It says gifts are okay if worth twenty dollars.
But surely the public
Is certain to see,
I could never be bought for a sandwich and
tea.

Restrictions apply so it does not suffice
To pay twenty bucks for a gift twice the price.
And in any one year
I can't use it, of course,
To go over the limit -- fifty dollars per source.

For gifts that a friend or my sister might send,
The rules recognize I don't want to
offend.
Regardless of value,

It only must be
That their motive to give wasn't business,
but me.

The rule's much the same in the case of my
spouse
Who happens to work as she can't stand our
house.
Although her employer
Is one of those sources,
I can go to their fete and avoid more
divorces.

In the case of most parties, the rule's not so
clear
As the agency must have an interest, I fear.
If worth more than twenty
And it's no friend true,
Then I'd better seek guidance or I could be
blue.

What of those in the office with whom I
share much?
Are all treats a taboo -- must we always go
dutch?
The rules here are different,
They're in subpart C.
They okay some gifts even to and from me.

I can give to my boss to a limit of ten --
A baseball, a cap, or a blue ballpoint pen.
If not to my boss
Or my chain of command,
To a friend I can give more without being
canned.

I always look forward to my office party.
We're all in good moods and the food is so
hearty.
If no arm is twisted,
Collecting's okay
To make sure that everyone has a good
day.

So go forth with good cheer and know
there's no reason
To think that the gifts rules will ruin your
season!