

Richard Rifkin/NYEC
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To Darren Dopp/NYEC@NYEC
cc David Nocenti/NYEC@NYEC
bcc
Subject Use of State Planes

A heads up -- Odató called the Ethics Commission today asking for any opinion they have on the use of the state aircraft when the state official attends political functions. The Acting Counsel at the Commission called me because she could not find any written opinion. She wanted to know whether I remembered anything.

The common view that is being stated by almost everyone is that it is okay to use state aircraft as long the state official does government work. He may, while at his destination, also attend a political event, but he can't use aircraft just for a political event. To the best of my recollection, this was derived from conversations I had when I was at the Commission with Jim McGuire. As I recall, McGuire never asked for anything in writing, and the Commission never gave him anything. Thus, depending on how deep Odató digs, he may learn that it was I who made the decision about state aircraft and conveyed that decision to the Governor's office.

