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FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
Doug Walgren, Chairman

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS NOTES ON INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH HOUSE TASK FORCE ON INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION



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HEARINGS ON THE HUMAN FACTOR IN INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

Six days of comprehensive oversight hearings on "The Human Factor in Innovation and Productivity" were held in September by the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology of the House Committee on Science and Technology. The hearings were held at the request of Congressman Stan Lundine, a Member of the House Task Force on Industrial Innovation, who also chaired the six-day review.

The hearings focused on issues associated with management, labor and their inter-relationships as they pertain to innovation and productivity.

Testimony presented at the hearings included international representatives from Norway, Sweden, and Japan who discussed their approaches to the interface between human resources and technology development. One full day was devoted to a thorough examination of the development and implications of rapidly advancing new office technology. On another day, the Subcommittee explored the way in which major U.S. corporations approach the relationship between human resources and technology development. Other witnesses were from academia, government, labor, management, and public opinion research areas.

An analysis of the hearings is being prepared by the Congressional Research Service, and the Subcommittee plans to make recommendations for Congressional action based on the hearings.

Contact Tom Kramer, 225-8108.

ACTION ALERT

Federal Assistance to Small Business -- Oversight hearings on "The Regulatory Flexibility Act" (P.L. 96-354) are scheduled for October 20 and 21, 1981 by the Subcommittee on Export Opportunities and Special Small Business Problems of the House Small Business Committee. Contact Steve Lynch, 225-9368.

Federal Patent Policy -- Markup of H.R. 4564, the "Uniform Federal Research and Development Utilization Act of 1981," will be held by the House Committee on Science and Technology on October 29, 2318 Rayburn House Office Building at 10:00 a.m. Contact Tom Kramer, 225-8108.

Japanese Productivity Growth: Lessons For the United States -- A hearing will be held on November 4, 1981 by the Subcommittee on International Trade, Finance, and Security Economics of the Joint Economic Committee. Contact Kent Hughes, 225-1773.

Service Industries Development Program (S. 1233) -- Hearings on S. 1233, a bill to establish a service industries development program in the Department of Commerce, have been scheduled for October 20 and 21, 1981 by the Subcommittee on Business, Trade, and Tourism of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Contact Dennis Phelan, 224-8172.

Small Business Innovation Development Act (H.R. 4326) -- A markup of H.R. 4326 will be held by the House Small Business Committee on October 22, 1981. (Senate counterpart: S. 881). Contact LaVon French, 225-3171.

RECENT EVENTS

Engineering Manpower Concerns -- Hearings were held by the House Committee on Science and Technology on October 6 and 7, 1981. Contact Paul Maxwell, 225-8115.

Federal Patent Policy -- A joint hearing was held on September 30, 1981 by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Science and Technology on S. 1657 and H.R. 4564 on federal patent policy. Contact Bill McClusky, 224-8170 or Tom Kramer, 225-8108. See article on page 2.

Patent Term Restoration Act of 1981 (H.R. 1937 and S. 255) -- The Senate passed S. 255 on July 9, 1981 and the bill was referred to the House. Hearings were held by the House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice on July 22, September 30, October 1 and 7, 1981, Contact Bruce Lehman, 225-3926.

Regulatory Procedure Act of 1981 (H.R. 746) -- Hearings of the Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations of the House Committee on the Judiciary concluded on September 10. Markup was held on September 30 and October 1. The bill was reported favorably out of Subcommittee and will be considered by the full Committee on October 20th. Contact the Subcommittee, 225-5742.

Regulatory Reform Act (S. 1080) -- Markup of S. 1080 was held on September 15 and 16, 1981 by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the bill was reported out of full Committee. Contact Lincoln Hoewing, 224-4751.