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August 12, 1977

Elwin A. Andrus, Esq.
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RE: Thornton Bill H.R. 6249 and H.R. 8596

Dear Elwin:

An important piece of legislation covering a uniform government patent policy has been introduced by Representative Thornton of Arkansas and Representative Teague of Texas. I am enclosing a copy of their bill H.R. 6249 (the bill has recently been reintroduced as H.R. 8596 with additional sponsors), and suggest that the MPLA Legislative Committee study its contents and have MPLA make comments to Representative Thornton. He has asked for comments from the bar, and he contacted The National Council of Patent Law Associations for this purpose. You will probably be hearing from Jim Custin, our Councilman, on this subject. It will be most fitting for Milwaukee, and others, to make their views known to Representative Thornton as promptly as possible.

I understand Thornton is taking a very reasonable position on the subject. From glancing through the bill it seems to contain an approach acceptable to most of us - particularly in view of the opinions and positions of those who would keep all rights in the government with only grants of non-exclusive licenses. I suggest the bill should be viewed in light of the power of these persons, and that if the bill is actually reasonable MPLA comment favorably upon it, and also inform Gene Bernard of its position.

Elwin A. Andrus, Esq.
Andrus, Scales, Starke & Sawall

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In addition to a clean copy of the bill, I am also enclosing some correspondence and documentation generated by Tom Arnold which may assist you in your study of the bill.

Yours very truly,



Arthur H. Seidel

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Enc.

cc: Howard M. Herriot
James R. Custin