

February 16, 1982

MEMO TO MEMBERS OF THE MPLA:

Mr. Mike Bloomer, APLA Executive Director, called this morning to advise that the Commissioner's fee bill will be introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives next week. The House hearing on the bill will be March 10 and passage of a fee bill is expected by March 15. The Commissioner's bill doubles the percentage of recovery of USPTO expenses by fee collection.

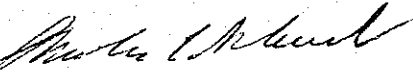
Patent expense recovery will be 50% from processing fees and 50% from maintenance fees. Trademark expenses will be 100% recovery from fees. It is Mr. Bloomer's recommendation that you communicate your thoughts in regard to the proposed fee bill and the Commissioner's proposed fee increases to the following Wisconsin members of the Committee on the Judiciary:

The Honorable Robert W. Kastenmeier *
United States House of Representatives
Room 2232, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Room 315, Canon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

* Chairman, Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties & Adm. of Justice

Mr. Bloomer indicates the APLA is of the view that a 50% recovery of Patent Office expenses through fees is reasonable. That is the current law. The bill being introduced by the Commissioner would give the Commissioner power to establish fees which, to some extent, are believed to reduce the Patent Office accountability to the public. The greatest fear of those who oppose 100% recovery of Patent Office expenses by various fees, including maintenance fees, is that the patent system may not continue to be available to the "small" inventor.



Charles L. Schwab
President

CLS:pd