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April 5, 1979

Mr. Marvin D. Woerpel
4833 Holiday Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Dear Mr. Woerpel:

Thank you for your very thoughtful letter regarding the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act (S. 414).

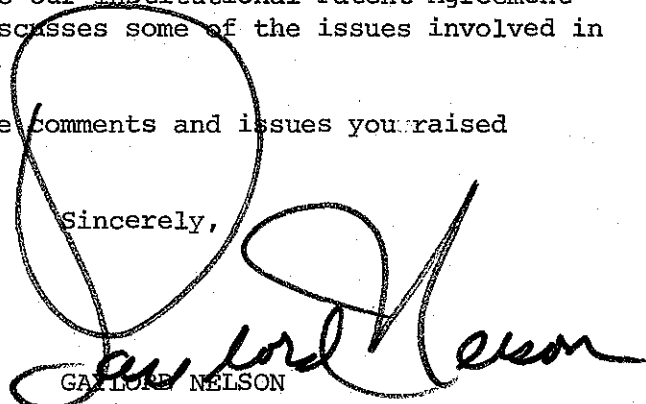
It would be most helpful to have your analysis of the changes in S. 414 and last year's version (S. 3496)

For example, you know of my concern that section 207 of last year's bill expressly perpetuated the threat that Federal agencies may move to obtain the rights to background patents or know-how of the contractors with whom they do business. The new bill is improved in that it deletes this provision, but what then are the implications for the problem of small business background rights?

Meanwhile, enclosed is a recent article from The Wall Street Journal by Arlen J. Large, headed "Public Money and Private Gain". This article was referred to our Institutional Patent Agreement hearing of last year and discusses some of the issues involved in the Dole-Bayh bill.

Thank you again for the comments and issues you raised concerning S. 414.

Sincerely,


GAYLORD NELSON
Chairman

GN:mpc

Enclosure