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September 8, 1977

263-2831

Mr. Elwin A. Andrus  
Andrus, Scales, Starke & Sawall  
735 North Water Street, Suite 1102  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Elwin:

Thanks for your letter of August 23 regarding the Thornton Bill and the attachments to that letter.

We have considered this Bill initially when it was HR 6249 and have had considerable discussion about it with others who have university orientation. I personally have participated in problems generated by the Freedom of Information Act, the National Advisory Committee Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act, all of which impact on early disclosure of proprietary information in research protocols, hypotheses and designs. Our desired result was to persuade governmental agencies that all of these materials should be considered proprietary in nature and unavailable to third parties at least until such time as the proposed research became Government funded. This chapter of our efforts is not yet closed and we are currently continuing to participate in efforts to obtain what we believe is a fair shake for scientific investigators.

The Thornton Bill, if passed, would be the type of legislation which would respond to the investigator's needs and would be a great help in the university sector seeking and obtaining appropriate patent protection for its inventions. Consequently, we endorse the Thornton Bill in almost its entirety and would, of course, be pleased to have the Milwaukee Patent Law Association take a very positive position in favor of the Bill. Realizing that there is a fast growing interface between universities and industries and in the transfer of technology from the university sector to the commercial sector, a practice in which we have been long engaged, the Thornton Bill becomes more important than ever. We firmly believe that it is a long needed piece of legislation and that every effort should be made to get it through Congress.

Very truly yours,

Howard W. Bremer  
Patent Counsel

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