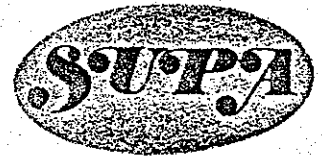




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February 1, 1980

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Dear Dr. Press:

On November 9, 1979 I wrote to you on behalf of our Society commending the President's then recently announced patent initiatives for industrial innovation and seeking a positive and specific endorsement of S. 414 and H. R. 2414 both entitled "University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act."

A response from Mr. Richard A. Meserve however, advised that, although the prime thrust of these Bills was supported by the Administration, comprehensive legislation, of which university patent ownership would be one part, would be the goal of the Administration.

We were, quite frankly, disappointed in that response since, based upon the experience of years of effort in seeking executive and legislative understanding of the necessity for technology transfer incentives, we had the firm conviction that comprehensive legislation of that type had not been and would not be politically acceptable. Nevertheless, we patiently awaited the drafting and introduction of such more comprehensive Bill.

It is obvious to the university community that its convictions were fully confirmed by the adverse reaction to "The Government Patent Policy Act of 1980" during the hearings before the combined Judiciary, Commerce, and Government Affairs Committees of the Senate on January 25, 1980.

Given that adverse reaction we are now more than ever concerned that if the Administration continues in its efforts to

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present and advance such comprehensive patent legislation, one of the most valuable incentives to innovation in the form of S. 414 and H. R. 2414 will be buried in the rhetoric and delays which we can unequivocally predict will be generated by and accompany any such comprehensive legislation. Moreover, we foresee such continued efforts at comprehensive legislation as eroding the good will which the President's innovation message initially engendered and as tending to relegate to mere rhetoric the announced support by the President of the university and small business position.

It is abundantly clear that the provisions of S. 414 and H. R. 2414 are practically and politically acceptable as evidenced by the co-sponsorship of S. 414 by some 34 Senators of widely varied political persuasion and by that Bill being reported out favorably by the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate without a dissenting vote.

In the present international environment, and being fully aware of the complexities attendant upon technology transfer and innovation, as well as the substantial lead-time necessary to these functions, we believe it is imperative that action be taken now to provide meaningful motivation for increased innovation.

It is our considered opinion that it is therefore both logical and politic for the Administration to specifically endorse S. 414 and H. R. 2414 and move forcefully for the passage of these Bills to supply innovation incentives where they are most sorely needed. The enhanced transfer of vital technology and innovation which we are certain will be experienced under such legislation will then become a strong recommendation for the extension of the provisions of these Bills to all other contractors with the Government.

Very truly yours,



Howard W. Bremer
President

HWB:rw

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