

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF DEAN OF RESEARCH  
MEMORANDUM

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TO: Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Burke  
FROM: Ralph Shay  
SUBJECT:

DATE: 7/21/78

WCB  
CHD

JUL 24 1978

For your information. I hope SUPA  
can arrive at a stand on this.

I didn't comment on his (Lederberg's)  
suggestion for eliminating compensation to  
inventors in order not to confuse the  
issues.

July 21, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Rockefeller University  
York Avenue at 66th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I read with interest the comments in Nature 274, July 6, 1978, where in you had proposed to Senator Gaylord Nelson a Research Corporation type federal organization for patents arising from government type research.

The arguments I find against your suggestion include:

1. Research Corporation now serves very well in this capacity. Patents with large potential income and extensive licensing potential often flow to them both from federally-supported and non-federally-supported research.
2. A federal corporation as you propose would likely not be interested in pushing inventions with low potential income or those of primarily state or regional interest.
3. The university technology transfer programs are serving state and regional needs very well; many new small companies are often originated and frequently aided by new technologies arising in university research. Often the new technologies are not patentable, or it is not necessary to patent. Currently government patent lawyers proceed to file on these technologies despite the lack of need for successful commercialization. There is no reason to expect them to do differently in the organization you propose.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

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July 21, 1978

4. The last thing we need is another government corporation with all the red tape involved and lack of sensitivity to small business and regional needs especially in a field so important to state and regional economic development as the current university technology transfer programs.

I have been delighted with the liberalization of federal rights to patents extended to universities and others by the proposed changes originally announced in the Federal Register, vol. 43, no. 23, Thursday, February 2, 1978, pages 4424-4427 and which went into effect July 18, 1978. I think those proposals if allowed to stand will make a significant contribution to our economic system and, over the longer term, to our balance of payments.

Yours sincerely,

J. Ralph Shay  
Assistant Dean of Research

JRS:SLW