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CABLE  
LAWBYRINTH

August 25, 1978

The Honorable Philip Crane  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Crane:

I am a patent lawyer and one of your constituents. I am also a trustee of an organization entitled Society of University Patent Administrators. A significant portion of my practice involves inventions developed in the course of university research. Much of this research is sponsored by one or more agencies of the federal government. Each agency has a different patent policy - which is a mystery in itself - but as a general rule, the government does or can claim title to inventions developed under such sponsorship.

In the past, the universities have given in to the government by relinquishing such rights because they really had no business interest to protect. This has led to the absurd situation described by Senator Dole in the attached news release. The problem is not unique to the DHEW.

Dealing with inventions is intricate at best. Policies that hamstring the universities in trying to bring such inventions to the public benefit no one.

I realize that patents are not of vital interest to the average voter. Senators Nelson and Long realize this too which is why the government's policies and handling of such rights make a convenient target. In fact, the long term effect of such policies can hurt the individual, as Senator Stevenson has also observed.

It is my belief that the policies described are repugnant to your general philosophy of government. On behalf of SUPA, I request that you give your support to Senator Dole.

Yours very truly,

*Ray E. Snyder*  
Ray E. Snyder

RES/nls

Enc

bcc ✓ Mr. Howard Bremer  
Mr. Norman Latker  
Mr. Paul Keenan  
Mr. Martin Rachmeler