

SUPA

December 20, 1977

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson  
Chairman  
Select Committee on Small Business  
United States Senate  
Room 424 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

After writing to you on December 5 with regard to the Monopoly Subcommittee hearings on government patent policies there came to hand (on December 16) a copy of your release on this subject. Your Mr. Gordon had advised me, as my earlier letter stated, that the December hearings would be confined to Government agencies but I note that this is not the case.

With regard to the substance of your release we believe that the facts will show that no government grant or contract for research or development "gives away" the rights to inventions. Those rights are basically and initially in the inventor, whose employer may then obtain rights in varying degrees based upon conditions of employment. The crux of the whole matter which has been a plague for decades is what rights to inventions should the government acquire (not give away) as a condition of an r & d contract or grant. How will the national interest best be served, and at what cost? The opinions of Attorney Generals Stone and Rogers seem to involve inventions already owned by the government and are not germane to the issue.

My earlier letter transmitted some material which is pertinent to your hearings. In addition, however, I hope you will grant the Society of University Patent Administrators the opportunity to be heard at a future hearing.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond J. Woodrow

RJW:plr

cc: Representative Ray Thornton - w/Dec 5 Letter  
SUPA Officers and Trustees

bcc: Norman Latker  
Reagan Scurlock  
Jesse E. Laskery