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May 24, 1977

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FILE:

LITTON INDUSTRIES, INC.

JUN 1 1977

PATENT & LICENSING DEPT.

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BOARD OF AMERICAN PATENT LAW ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL OF THE PTC SECTION, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Re: Thornton H.R. 6249

Gentlemen:

Some of you will recall a letter of May 6, 1977 to me from Michael J. Egan, Jr., Associate Attorney General, suggesting that "it might be more appropriate for now to defer any Meetings such as you [I] suggest until there is some specific issue or active legislative proposal for us to discuss." Thornton, H.R. 6249, copy enclosed, may be such a legislative proposal for appropriate Bar groups to review with the Attorney General's Office, as well as with the appropriate Congressmen and Senators.

H.R. 6249 was introduced in the House by Thornton of Arkansas and Teague of Texas and covers a uniform patent policy for inventions resulting from federally funded research and development. I have not had a chance to study the bill but from prior knowledge of prior attitudes of Congressmen Thornton and Teague I am sure that it is drawn with some honor and respect for the patent system.

You may recall that the last time our government administrators tried to do something positive in this area, a Ralph Nader affiliate, Public Citizen, Inc. with at least tacit approval of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, attacked the concept of exclusive licensing (even limited term) of results of government research.

Also enclosed is a copy of relevant BNA comments of April 14, 1977 and April 21, 1977.

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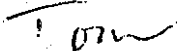
I am led to believe that Representatives Thornton and Teague would appreciate as many comments as can be obtained from the public with regard to this bill. They feel that it is necessary to get a public reaction or their bill, like others, will fail because of support limited largely to frantic arm waving by a few universities.

Of course the problem is that only a very small percentage of the Patent Bar is really interested in government patent policy; but if the Patent Bar does not advocate for good government bills in this area, then there shall be none.

So I think that both the major patent organizations in the country--and I would suppose also the National Council of Patent Law Associations as well--should undertake a study of the enclosed bill and should undertake to generate as much individual comment and group comment as it is possible to generate on the bill that is of interest to so few of us.

I might add that Congressman Thornton's aide for this subject matter, at least, is Darcia Bracken, (202) 225-3737 and she should be contacted for guidance and coordination of any efforts to lobby or testify for or against this bill. We will have to find out where this bill will go on the Senate side in order to determine who to contact there.

Regards,



Tom Arnold

TA:scl

Enc.

cc: National Council of Patent Law Association