

FEB 22 1980

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## United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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ROBERT J. DOTCHIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

February 1, 1980

Mr. Robert Brennan  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 71  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Dear Mr. Brennan:

Congratulations on doing a great job at the White House Conference on Small Business. You scored a great success for S.1860.

As we promised you, below is a legislative status report on the bill.

1. Title I is pending before the Small Business Committee. Legislative hearings have not yet been scheduled but are expected to be held in late February or in early March. It is anticipated that there will be considerable discussion with the Administration over the use of a blanket small business set-aside percentage for each agency.

Of immediate importance is your support for Senator Hart's printed amendment #584 to the Department of Energy Authorization bill (S.688) which will hopefully be scheduled soon for Senate floor action. The amendment establishes a 12% R&D set-aside for small business. A list of present co-sponsors is enclosed.

2. S.414, which represents one-half of the patent provisions of Title II, has been reported out of the Judiciary Committee and can be called up for action by the full Senate at any time. Senator Bayh has indicated he wants quick Senate action on the bill, but Senators Cannon, Stevenson and Schmitt are seeking to delay its consideration to allow time to prepare amendments or an alternative bill to be drafted which would also provide patent relief for larger concerns. Senator Bayh, meanwhile, is seeking additional co-sponsors for his bill. A list of existing sponsors is enclosed.

S.1679, the other half of Title II, which authorizes the Patent and Trademark Office to administratively determine the validity of a patent, is scheduled for mark-up by the Judiciary Committee on February 5.

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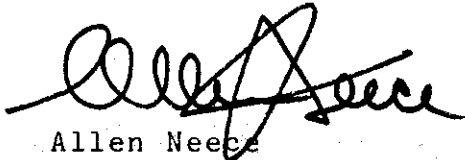
3. No Senate action has been taken on the tax provisions in Title III. Furthermore, it is anticipated that no action will occur until the House sends a tax bill to the Senate. However, the Joint Committee on Taxation has been asked to perform a revenue loss estimate for the tax provisions. This estimate should be completed after the House-Senate Conference finishes action on the windfall profits tax legislation.

4. On December 20, the Administrative Practices and Procedures Subcommittee reported S.299, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, to the full Judiciary Committee. The full committee has not yet scheduled a mark-up session for this bill.

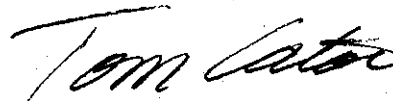
5. Senators Nelson and Bayh have recently introduced S.2079, the "Independent Patent and Trademark Office Act," which would take the Patent and Trademark Office out of the Commerce Office and make it an independent agency.

Again, congratulations. We will do our best to keep you informed of any prospective legislative action on the bill or on related bills.

Sincerely,



Allen Neece  
Legislative Counsel



Tom Cator  
Staff Economist

TC/AN  
Enclosure