

PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCES CREATION OF
COMMITTEE TO STUDY INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

The White House has announced the establishment of an interagency committee to conduct a comprehensive review of issues and problems related to industrial innovation.

According to a May 11th press release:

[Text] Innovation provides a basis for the nation's economic growth. It is closely related to productivity and to the competitiveness of U. S. products in domestic and world markets. Efforts to enhance innovation in industry may lead to an improved economic climate in the United States.

In recent years, private sector research and development has concentrated on low-risk, short-term projects directed at improving existing products. Emphasis on the longer-term research that could lead to new products and processes has decreased.

Although the development of new products or processes is primarily the responsibility of the private sector in the United States, federal policies have a profound impact on the innovation process. In light of the central role of innovation in economic development, federal policies on the economy, taxes, regulations, procurement, and foreign relations which affect innovation will be carefully examined in the study.

The review will be accomplished under the procedures established by the Domestic Policy Review system and is to make its recommendations within 14 months. The interagency committee will be chaired by the Secretary of Commerce. Other members include the Secretaries of Defense, Treasury, HEW, and Energy, the Attorney General, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of OMB, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, and the Science and Technology Adviser to the President. [End Text]

To assure input from the private sector, an Advisory Committee is now being proposed. Nominations and comments are invited.

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The following notice regarding the proposed establishment of an Advisory Committee appeared in the June 2nd Federal Register (43 Fed. Reg. 24116):

[TEXT]

Office of the Secretary

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL POLICY
ON INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

Proposed Establishment

On May 9, 1978, President Carter directed that an Industrial Innovation Coordinating Committee, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of Commerce (the Secretary), develop for Presidential consideration a set of policy options to address issues and problems bearing on industrial innovation. The President explicitly required that input be sought from the private sector.

To assist in receiving input from the private sector, it is anticipated that the Secretary, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act [5 U.S.C. App. (1976)]

and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-63 of March 1974, will propose the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Federal Policy on Industrial Innovation. The establishment of such a committee is subject to consultation with the General Services Administration.

The proposed Committee would advise the Secretary of the views of its members with regard to Federal policy options designed to increase significant industrial innovation in the United States as required by the referenced Presidential Directive of May 9, 1978.

The proposed Committee would consist of approximately 125 members to be appointed by the Secretary to assure a balanced representation of such interests as industry, business, academia, labor, consumers, environ-

mentalists and other public interests. The proposed Committee would function solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The proposed Committee would operate through subcommittees of its members.

Pending the formal establishment of the Advisory Committee, interested persons are invited to submit nominations and comments to the Secretary. Such comments should be addressed to the Secretary of Commerce, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and E Streets NW., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Dated: May 30, 1978.

JORDAN J. BARUCH,
Assistant Secretary for
Science and Technology.

[End Text]

|| PTCJ COMMENT: This may be a golden opportunity for advocates of intellectual property to make their views known.