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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 21, 1978

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Gaylord:

I have shared your interest in the proposals for revising the federal government's patent policy and have been interested in the hearings that you are conducting before the Senate Select Committee on Small Business.

Of particular concern to me is the need to formulate a new approach to patent policy with respect to discoveries and inventions arising from government-financed research in our colleges and universities. In all of our patent policy we must put foremost the ultimate best interests of the American public in benefitting from new developments. Our policy must both provide incentives for such developments and assure their application and availability. Both considerations must be present in our patent policy concerning government-financed university research. Dr. F. N. Andrews, the very highly respected Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Purdue University, has compiled the enclosed materials which I believe reflect the considered thinking of many of our colleges and universities regarding government patent policy. I share much of the concern expressed in these materials, and I would greatly appreciate it if you would make them a part of the hearing record in the hearings you are continuing today.

I look forward to learning of the conclusions of your hearings and working with you to formulate a policy that will protect the legitimate needs of the government and insure that new discoveries and inventions resulting from this research are fully utilized.

Sincerely,

Birch
Birch Bayh
United States Senator

Encis.

*Gaylord -
Andrews is a
very sharp guy!
Birch*