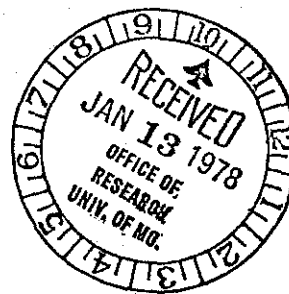


UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



Office of the President

321 University Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65201
Telephone (314) 882-2011

January 9, 1978

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson
United States Senator
from Wisconsin
United States Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

As President of the University of Missouri, I must express the concern of this institution over statements made in your news releases numbered 77-167 and 77-168. These announced a series of hearings on December 19, 20, and 21, 1977, which are preliminary to "an extensive study to be conducted by the Monopoly Subcommittee over the next two years into government policies on patents resulting from publicly financed research."

The universities have always believed that support of research by the federal government has been a cooperative effort. The universities have the expertise to assist the government in responding to needs. At the same time, the academic programs of universities are enhanced by the acquisition and dissemination of new knowledge which contributes to the well-being of the nation.

This university has previously stated its position that the federal government has the right to issue patents, but it does not have the constitutional right to hold them in the name of the government. I would reiterate this statement for your records.

The universities have a real interest in this matter. I would submit that broad opportunity for input should be provided to universities in order that the Monopoly Subcommittee may have the benefit of the thinking of all interested parties. Your news release does not indicate that this is contemplated.

Your news release arrived too late to permit us to request permission to appear at this session of your hearing. However, Information Item No. 59 from DHEW indicated that the record will be open for twenty-one days after December 21, 1977. It is our desire that this letter become a part of the record.

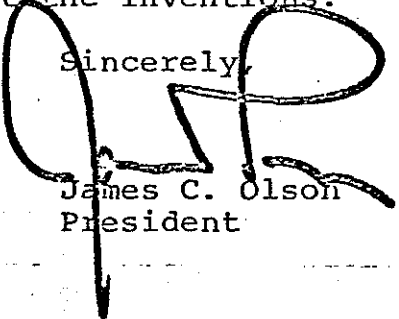
COLUMBIA KANSAS CITY ROLLA ST. LOUIS

an equal opportunity institution

Senator Gaylord Nelson
Page 2
January 9, 1978

The University of Missouri would welcome the opportunity to testify before your subcommittee. We feel it would be counter-productive to require the reporting of all inventions developed in whole or in part by federally supported research. It would diminish the interest of the faculty researcher to perform the research, and indeed to report the inventions.

Sincerely,



James C. Olson
President

JCO:AHE:pb

cc: Senator Eagleton
Senator Danforth

bc: Vice President Emmons ✓