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SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON, CHAIRMAN
SENATE MONOPOLY SUBCOMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
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I URGE YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN OPEN MINDS DURING HEARINGS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PATENT POLICIES. UNLIKE THE PREPONDERANCE OF WITNESSES DECEMBER 19 THROUGH 21, THOSE OF US WITH TECHNOLOGICAL BACKGROUNDS AND EXTENSIVE LICENSING EXPERIENCE RECOGNIZE THAT THE POLICY OF FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF INVENTIONS FROM FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROJECTS HAS DRASTICALLY STIFLED RESEARCH CREATIVITY. SIMILARLY, GRANTING OF EXCLUSIVE LICENSES IS A NECESSARY PROTECTION FOR HIGH-RISK INVESTMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING OF NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE DISMAL RECORD OF LICENSING AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF FEDERALLY-OWNED PATENTS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

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TPE: memo

cc: Senator Lowell P. Weicker
Senator Robert P. Griffin
Senator Donald Riegle
Representative Philip E. Ruppe

bcc E. P. Schellin, Exec. V.P.
National Patent Council

✓ Norman Latker, DHEW