

May 23, 1978

Ms. Anne C. Roark  
Assistant Editor  
The Chronicle of Higher Education  
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Ms. Roark:

It was a pleasure to talk with you this morning along with Dr. Anderson about the problem of an overall government patent policy. Since then, I have read your article; you are to be congratulated on the fair and thorough coverage you gave this complicated subject.

Copies of some of the materials we discussed are enclosed for your use. Included are Senator Bayh's letter to OMB and the editorial by Betsy Ancker-Johnson in the April issue of *Physics Today*. You may be particularly interested in the discussion paper regarding H.R. 8596.

Again, we believe that if all sides of this issue are given a fair hearing, the institutional patent agreement approach will be the one used in establishing a government-wide patent policy. Apparently Senator Nelson feels that way also or he would not be going to great lengths to hold one-sided hearings with witnesses who say only what he wants to hear, nor would he be relying on emotional press releases to carry his argument. It is interesting that your article concludes with the quotation of a White House official who indicated that people starting out with some kind of rational middle ground on the question must be heard before progress is made with the issue. We are convinced that the IPA approach is that rational middle ground, as it gives the universities the opportunity to pursue innovations in which they invariably have a vested interest, and at the same time gives the government a non-exclusive, royalty-free license and the right to "march in" when universities mishandle or fail to bring innovations into public use.

At this point in time our greatest concern is that Senator Nelson and those of his persuasion give the subject complete consideration before any decisions are made. One of his staff members recently

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stated that additional hearings will be scheduled before July 18 and that other university representatives will be invited to testify. We hope that is the case if the Senator chooses to pursue the withdrawal of the GSA regulations.

Sincerely,



William O. Burke  
Chairman, University  
Patent Committee

WOB:ev  
Encls.

cc: Dr. Robert C. Anderson