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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 1, 1978

Mr. Ray E. Snyder
518 Can-Dota Avenue
Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Thank you for your letter in response to my comments concerning the decline in U.S. technological superiority.

This is a problem that could have serious economic consequences for the U.S. Our present balance-of-trade deficit, declining industrial productivity and unemployment are caused, in part, by the reduced competitiveness of U.S. products in foreign and domestic markets. Often we discover that foreign products are technologically superior to our own.

At the same time, we find many industrial firms cutting back on long-term investments in research in many scientific areas. In these circumstances, the Subcommittee will be conducting a major review of U.S. science and technology policy, and its impact on technology and industrial innovation.

A number of questions will be examined: (1) What factors account for the decline, if any, in technological innovation? (2) To what extent do research and development, and innovation contribute to economic growth? (3) What policies should industry and labor pursue in these circumstances? (4) What are the policy choices for the Federal Government, either in removing disincentives to innovation or in more actively promoting it? (5) What policies should industry and labor pursue in these circumstances?

I very much appreciate receiving your views, and they will be considered carefully by the Subcommittee.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, Technology,
and Space