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May 25, 1979

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Mr. Franklin D. Raines
Associate Director for Economics
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Dear Mr. Raines:

Members of the Society of University Patent Administrators have expressed their concern over recent disquieting reports concerning restrictions in the budget in the Patent and Trademark Office. I, individually, and as President of the Society of University Patent Administrators, share these concerns. We collectively believe that the maintenance of a strong intellectual property system in the United States is essential in the current economic climate where innovation has become the preferred currency of foreign affairs. The only way to insure a strong system is to provide not only an adequate but a generous budget for the Patent and Trademark Office so that it will be able to perform its critical role in aiding the innovation process.

The Society of University Patent Administrators is a young organization with approximately 95 members representing 60 major research oriented universities. It is a professional Society of individuals (not of universities) all of whom have responsibility for administering inventions and patents at their representative institutions. The functions of these individuals and the benefits which can be derived from their functions for the universities, but more importantly for the country as a whole, arise from their ability to utilize the patent system as the instrument to transfer the results of basic research conducted at the universities to the market-place.

Of the projected expenditure for research and development by the Government for calendar year 1978 and 1979 about over \$4 billion will be spent at educational institutions. Based upon past experience

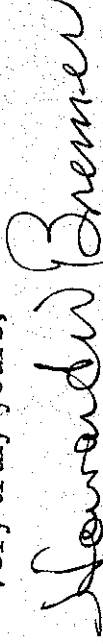
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these kinds of expenditures will generate a substantial number of inventions the great majority of which will tend to be very embryonic in nature and will require a substantial amount of development by the private sector before they can be put in a form suitable for introduction into the marketplace. In order for the transfer of such technology to occur some incentive must be provided to the private sector to engage in the economic risks of developing such inventions. Obviously, the universities themselves are not in a position to manufacture or market products which might arise either directly or indirectly from their research functions. Past experience again has confirmed that the patent system, through extending the ability to grant patent licenses to the universities, is the best route to promoting the transfer of university generated technology. As a consequence, timely prosecution of patent applications with minimum pendency times can be essential to the technology transfer capability. These are, of course, dependent upon an adequate Patent and Trademark Office budget as is the issuance of patents which have a strong presumption of validity. If you would care to further explore the importance of a strong and effective patent system to the technology transfer process from the university environment members of our Society would be pleased to meet with you or provide additional information.

Very truly yours,



Howard W. Bremer
President

HWB:rw

cc--Mr. Frank Press
Mr. Donald Banner

bc - Mary Apper