

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

January 5, 1978

PATENT BRANCH, OGC  
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Senator Gaylord Nelson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

In keeping with information received that the record of hearings held by your committee on December 19-21, on the subject of government patent policies will be open for 21 days, we wish to submit the following statement.

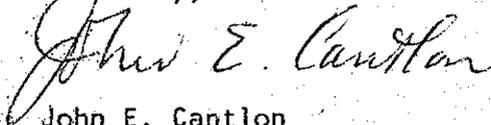
We would observe that if the people who gave testimony from the academic community have been identified correctly to us it was both sparse and lacking in representativeness. We would urge that your committee seek a broader range of views to find what the prevailing attitude is within United States universities and colleges regarding ownership of inventions arising from government supported research.

It is strongly urged that a sampling of vice presidents for research, of university research scientists and engineers and of university patent administrators be obtained before your committee reaches any conclusions regarding academia's position in this issue.

Notwithstanding the very important role that the federal government may play in the development of patentable inventions through its support of research and development we, nevertheless, do not agree that the government should own such inventions. It is our firm conviction, based on experience, that universities should retain title to inventions made by their faculties. This is essential if we wish to bring the products of research quickly to the service of our citizens. The theoretical model that inventions owned by all are most quickly accessible is a myth. Such a proposition does not stand the test of how the U.S. system works most effectively.

We appreciate this opportunity to briefly bring your attention to our very real concern about this issue and most earnestly urge your committee to make a careful, continued, and thorough study of the myriad of issues involved before reaching any conclusion.

Sincerely,



John E. Cantlon  
Vice President for Research  
and Graduate Studies

cc: Thomas A. Bartlett, President, AAU  
Dr. Henry Bredeck  
Vice President Robert Perrin

bcc: ✓ Dr. Norman J. Latker