May 8, 1974 INF 2-2
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MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

Subject: NSF Patent Policy - Conversation with Tom van der Voort, Legislative Assistant - Office of Sen. Wm. Proxmire

On April 29, 1974 I called Mr. van der Voort in response to Mr. Michael Weinberg's memorandum requesting that such call be made. I explained at considerable length the nature of our patent clauses, our experience with patent licensing activities of grantees, and our general patent policy. This has been embodied in a letter to Mr. van der Voort which enclosed relevant documents.

Mr. van der Voort said that Senator Proxmire was considering legislation to provide recoupment of Government investment in research leading to inventions. I argued at considerable length against such legislation, citing the following reasons, among others:

1) Most of our invention disclosures are in an embryonic state requiring subsequent investment;

2) The university licensing experience, with a few outstanding exceptions, has been that net royalty receipts are very small.

Mr. van der Voort suggested sharing royalties, to which I replied that the amount would be so small as to make the activity not worth doing. He then suggested charging royalties to industry, to which I replied that industry contributed back to the Government by way of taxes and also that the march-in rights protected the public.

SIGNED

Charles F. Brown
General Counsel

CFB:mm