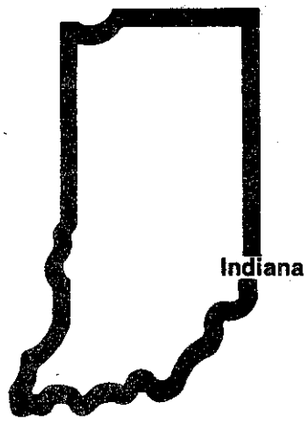

News from Birch Bayh

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** P R E S S A D V I S O R Y **

University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act
Hearings (S. 414)

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 15 -- "The illogical governmental regulations and strangling tangles of bureaucratic red tape" involved with the licensing procedures for patents on inventions resulting from federal research dollars will be the subject of hearings Wednesday before the Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Senator Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.) announced today.

Bayh said hearings on the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act (S.414) will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 16 in Room 2228 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Scheduled to testify on the bill are:

*** Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General of the United States, who will present to the subcommittee a report prepared by the General Accounting Office describing the problems associated with the licensing procedures on government patents.

*** A panel of health researchers: Dr. Hector F. DeLuca, chairman of the Biochemistry Department, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Dr. Leland C. Clark, Jr., Professor of Research Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Mr. H. Donald Putney, senior vice president, the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Penn. who will present testimony of Nobel Prizewinner Dr. Baruch Blumberg.

*** A panel of small business presidents: Mr. Patrick J. Ianotta, Ecolotrol, Inc., Bethpage, New York; Dr. Arthur S. Obermayer, Moleculon Research Corp., Cambridge, Mass., and Vice President of the American Association of Small Research Companies; Dr. Walter D. Syniuta, Advanced Mechanical Technologies, Inc., Newton, Mass.

Bayh indicated the witnesses testifying before the subcommittee are particularly knowledgeable about the problems caused by the government's policies relative to licensing of inventions resulting from federally financed research. He pointed out that many medical breakthroughs are being withheld from the public because of illogical regulations and needless delays in awarding the necessary patent rights for private enterprise to develop the products.

The Senator noted that approximately 28,000 patents are now sitting on government shelves. Untold thousands of other developments have not been patented by the government, but rather have gone unused or underutilized simply because no exclusive rights could be obtained during the critical developmental period.

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