Alleging unauthorized use of their patent by the Government, the plaintiffs sought "reasonable and entire" compensation under 28 U.S.C. §1498. The Government argued that the patent was invalid for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, and Trial Judge Colaianni agreed. See 204 USPQ 41 (Ct. Cls. 1979), 422 PTCJ A-16.

The Court of Claims, in a per curiam opinion, "affirms and adopts" the trial judge's decision and dismisses the case.

Legislation, Patents: By a voice vote taken February 19th, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved S. 1679, a bill authorizing patent reexamination. See 440 PTCJ A-1, D-1, 457 PTCJ A-1.

Under this bill, introduced last year by Senator Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), the Patent and Trademark Office would be empowered to reexamine issued patents in light of prior patents and publications that were not previously considered. The "Patent Law Amendments Act" would also give the courts the option of suspending litigation and sending disputed patents back to the PTO for reexamination.

Patents, Data Files: The two basic patent information data files maintained by the Patent and Trademark Office and a new bibliographic file are now publicly available on magnetic tape from the National Technical Information Service. See 45 Fed. Reg. 8083, 2/6/80.

The newly centralized service has been offered in response to President Carter's Industrial Innovation Initiatives aimed at increasing the effective transfer of technological information. See 452 PTCJ A-9, F-1.

The three files -- a patent classification file, a full text file, and patent bibliographic file -- are available for leasing on an annual basis. Prospective users may obtain sample lease agreements, fee structures, and test tapes from the Patent Files Product Manager, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161. Telephone: (703) 557-4806.

Seminars, Patents: "Tax Aspects of International Licensing of Patents and Know-How" will be discussed at a seminar on March 18th sponsored by the International Tax Institute (ITI), Inc. The program will be presented at the Chemist Club in New York City. Aydin S. Caginalp will be the instructor.

The registration fee, which includes a luncheon, is $30 for ITI members and $35 for nonmembers. For additional information, contact the International Tax Institute, Inc., 70 Pine Street, New York, New York 10005. Telephone: (212) 943-1150.

Associations, Announcements: The New York Patent Law Association will hold its Fifty Eighth Annual Dinner in honor of the Federal Judiciary on March 28th at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Chief Judge Howard T. Markey of the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals will be the featured speaker.

The dinner is open to NYPLA members and their guests. The cost is $50 for members and $60 for guests. For additional information, contact Albert Robin, Suite 220, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020. Telephone: (212) 977-8844.

-- End of Section A --

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