SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. -- SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "National Technology Innovation Act of 1979."

SECTION 2. -- FINDINGS

In this section Congress finds and declares that technology and industrial innovation are important for maintaining the economic health, social well-being and standard of living of Americans, that industrial innovation may be lagging in the United States, and no national policy or integrated set of programs exist to enhance technological innovation.

SECTION 3. -- PURPOSE

This section states that the purpose of this Act is to enhance technological innovation directed toward the improvement of economic, environmental and social well-being of U.S. citizens.

SECTION 4. -- DEFINITIONS

This section states several definitions.

SECTION 5. -- COMMERCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

In this section the Secretary of Commerce is directed to establish an Office of Industrial Technology with a Director of the Office to be appointed by the President with Senate confirmation. Certain duties of the Director are specified. The Director shall study technological developments as they impact upon employment, productivity and world trade in various industrial sectors. He shall identify technological needs and opportunities, assess the availability of capital and other technical resources in the private sector and identify government measures for advancing technological innovation. The Director shall make recommendations to the Congress and the President through the Secretary of Commerce on ways to improve the U.S. technological capacity and industrial development. He is to propose policy research and experiments in cooperation with other Federal agencies. The Director is to aid the Secretary in preparing a report to Congress and the President on the progress in implementing

the Act within three years after the date of enactment.

SECTION 6. -- CENTERS FOR INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

This section states that the Director shall assist in the establishment of Centers for Industrial Technology which are affiliated with Universities or non-profit institutions. The objectives of the Centers are to enhance technological innovation through cooperation between industry and universities, to develop the generic research base for industry, to conduct research that contributes to the scientific data base for regulations, to educate and train individuals for innovation, and to improve the transfer of information between industry and universities. The Centers are to seek, where appropriate, the expertise in Federal laboratories and to develop continuous financial support from industries and universities through fees, licenses, and royalties.

The Centers are to conduct cooperative industry-university basic and applied research, evaluate ideas for industrial innovation and new business ventures, provide technical assistance and advice for industry, develop curriculum for training innovators, and other activities.

In order to establish a Center, the Director of the Office shall find that the proposed Center has the potential to contribute to increased productivity, employment and innovation in the U.S. and that there is a high likelihood of receiving continuing support from the private sector. The host university or non-profit institution must have a program plan for the management of the Center, including a plan for achieving self-sustaining financial assistance. The Director shall also consider the Center's geographical location.

The Director is authorized to provide non-renewable planning grants for institutions that want to develop a plan for the Center.

Each Center has the option of acquiring title to any invention it develops. To acquire title the Center has to express the intent to commercialize the invention. The license is non-exclusive except when industrial support is not likely to be achieved without exclusive license. Any Federal department or agency has the royalty-free right to use the invention.

SECTION 7. -- GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

In this section the Director is authorized to make grants to and enter into cooperative agreements with the Centers for up to 75 percent of a program or project. Eligibility requirements, terms and conditions are specified.

SECTION 9. -- INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY REVIEW PANEL

This section establishes an independent Industrial Technology Review Panel which is authorized to make annual reviews of the activities of the Office. The Panel consists of 15 voting members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce plus the Director of the Office. The majority of the Panel shall be from the private sector. Requriements for Panel membership are stipulated.

SECTION 10. -- AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

This section provides the following authorization of appropriations for carrying out the functions of this Act: FY 1980 - $40 million; FY 1981 - $50 million; FY 1982, 83, 84 - $60 million for the Centers of Industrial Technology. $10 million are authorized for the Panel and other provisions of the Act for each of the fiscal years 1980, 81, 82, 83 and 84.