Senator Gaylord Nelson

Re: Monopoly Subcommittee
hearings on government-financed
research

Dear Senator:

The Board of the American Patent Law Association has read with interest your release 77-167 announcing hearings with respect to government financed research, making a number of accusations and stating your conclusions in advance.

It is of course understandable that you should have some ideas on the topic before the hearings you were announcing, for you have been interested in this subject over the years.

On the other hand, there is a very responsible view of many persons experienced in the subject matter who have no personal ax to grind (as well as a view of those with a personal interest), that is so different in degree from your announced conclusions as to constitute a difference in kind.

So far as I am able to determine from the list of witnesses for your hearings, the hearings are of a select group of people who for the most part share your preconceived view. They will not be cross-examined by persons having experience in the area who hold a different view, out of which the basis for error in their view might be developed. Their testimony will not be balanced by views of professional groups having a scope of experience or knowledge different from the few persons selected to testify at the hearings.

The American Patent Law Association accordingly requests an opportunity to present its views to the committee, either in open hearings or in private session with the committee and staff if that is preferred.

Yours truly,

TA: ef

President