OPENING STATEMENT
by
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The hearings are the initial phase of an extensive study to be conducted over the next two years into the policies of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government with respect to the disposition of the results of publicly-financed research.

There is no uniform Government policy. Federal agencies have sharply varying policies with regard to taking title to patentable inventions made under research and development contracts with private organizations.

The subcommittee is interested in the impact of these policies and practices on such matters as monopoly, concentration of economic power, technological progress, economic growth, consumption, and small business. The considerations that ought to govern this question are of a broad social, economic, and political nature and not just the limited objectives of a particular agency.

These hearings will examine three problems:

1. Increasing economic concentration brought about by the granting of patent monopolies to individual firms for discoveries which result from Government-financed research and development contracts.

The report of the Attorney General, dated November 8, 1956, insisted that the present Federal policies are strengthening the trend to monopoly and weakening further the relative position of small business. The report of the Attorney General, three years later -- November 9, 1959 -- repeats the same warning.

2. There is the problem of assuring that newly acquired technological information developed at Government expense and not of a classified nature is diffused throughout our society. The American people foot the bill. Do they receive commensurate benefits from this work?

3. Is the problem of whether the U.S. Government is getting all that it pays for from its research and development dollar. Is the Government giving away more than it should in the granting of its R&D contracts? Is it possible to recover part, or perhaps all, of our expenditures on research and development?