BILL
S. 3109

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ACTION: Introduced by Mr. McClellan.

S. 3109—INTRODUCTION OF A BILL AMENDING THE PATENT SECTION OF THE UNITED STATES CODE

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights of the Committee on the Judiciary, I introduce, by request of the Department of Commerce, a bill to amend section 6 of title 35, United States Code, "Patents," to authorize domestic and international studies and programs relating to patents and trademarks.

The United States has been an active participant in recent years in international cooperative efforts in the patent and trademark fields. The United States has assisted in the activities of BIRPI, the United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property, and ICIREPAT, the Committee for International Cooperation in Information Retrieval Among Examining Patent Offices.

The proposed legislation would give the United States the authority necessary to make contributions such as those requested by BIRPI and contributions of a similar nature which may be required in the near future.

Subsection (a) of the proposed bill includes the same provisions presently incorporated in section 6 of title 35, United States Code. It also adds the phrase "shall have the authority to carry on studies and programs regarding domestic and international patent and trademark law." This phrase is merely intended to state specifically an already existing authority clearly implied in present section 6.

Subsection (b) provides that the Commissioner of Patents may, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and in coordination with the Department of State, carry on or authorize to be carried on, programs and studies with foreign patent offices and international intergovernmental organizations in connection with the performance of the duties outlined in subsection (a). Again, this merely states specifically an already existing authority of the Commissioner implied in present section 6.

Subsection (c) provides that the Commissioner may, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, transfer appropriated funds of the Patent Office to the Department of State for the purpose of making special payments to international intergovernmental organizations for studies and programs concerning patents, trademarks and related matters. The amount of such payments is limited to $50,000 in any year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred. (S. 3109) to amend section 6 of title 35, United States Code, "Patents," to authorize domestic and international studies and programs relating to patents and trademarks, introduced by Mr. McCLELLAN, by request, was received, read twice by its title and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.