TEAGUE WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Rep. Olin Teague, D-Texas, the powerful chairman of the subcommittee that deals with veterans education benefits, this week announced he will not seek re-election next year because of poor health.

Teague, 67, said, "I do not believe I can continue to serve beyond my present term with the same effort and energy of previous years." The Texas congressman has headed the House Veterans Affairs Education and Training Subcommittee since 1973.

CHANCES GOOD FOR NEW PATENT LEGISLATION NEXT YEAR, LONG SAYS

There is a good chance Congress will pass legislation next year to end the government's practice of giving patent rights to research and development contractors, Sen. Russell Long, D-La., said yesterday.

Long told the Senate Monopoly Subcommittee he would like to see the president take a stand against giving contractors patent rights to inventions resulting from publicly financed research and development projects. The administration is expected to announce a comprehensive policy on U.S. patents rights within the next five weeks (HED, Dec. 21).

"If the government pays for it, then all the people in this country have the right to it," said Long, who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "Let's see if we can't educate the president of the United States about this matter," he added. "Injustice, inequity, unfairness and favoritism," he said, has resulted from the current practice of individual agencies deciding whether to give contractors patent rights.

Since 1963, Long has successfully attached amendments to 13 bills, including the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, the Saline Water Act and the Solar Energy Act, guaranteeing that all information, uses, products, processes, patents and other development resulting from research and development contracts will be available to the general public.

House Bill A bill introduced last April by Reps. Ray Thornton, D-Ark., and Olin Teague, D-Texas, however, would repeal those amendments and affirm individual agency control over the future of U.S. patents rights, Long told the subcommittee. The bill, H.R. 6249, is pending in the House Judiciary and Science and Technology committees. No hearings have been scheduled yet, according to a committee aide.

Long said he would "vigorously" oppose the bill if introduced in the Senate and sent to the Senate Commerce Committee, on which he serves.

Higher Ed On the other hand, American Council on Education counsel Sheldon Steinbach has said putting patent rights in the public domain is "unproductive." Steinbach said universities conducting federally funded research and development should be able to sell patents to industry for commercial development. ACE plans to submit written testimony to the Monopoly Subcommittee of the Senate Small Business Committee, which is to continue its hearings on the U.S. patent policy in January.

FTC View Meanwhile, Federal Trade Commission Chairman Michael Pertschuk yesterday told the subcommittee the FTC supports having the government retain all patent rights except under exceptional circumstances. Pertschuk said that system promotes more competition in marketing of publicly funded inventions. --DS