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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 19, 1980

Mr. James McIntyre
Director, Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

As you know, there is a great deal of concern both in the Congress and in the Executive branch over the continuing slump in American productivity and innovation. Experts have consistently said that one of the greatest barriers to this effort is the ever-increasing paperwork burden that the government places on our inventors. President Carter has pledged that he will do everything in his power to cut through this mass of red tape.

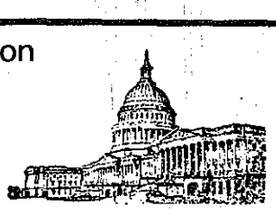
It is in this regard that I am writing to you on the time and effort reports contemplated by OMB Circular A-21. These reports attempt to substantiate research costs at universities. As this proposal now stands it represents precisely the kind of paperwork requirement that has proven to be so deadly to the creative spirit. These reports place a tremendous paperwork burden on university researchers to evaluate their efforts in ways that experts have told me simply cannot be made with any degree of precision. I predict that if this Circular goes into effect in its present form it will ultimately waste valuable time both at our universities and at OMB.

All of us want to make sure that public monies are being used in a reponsible manner. We should also do everything in our power to free our innovative minds from petty paperwork requirements. I hope that you will consult more closely with the university officials who would be pleased to assist your attempts to reach both goals in a more efficient manner than the time and effort reports of Circular A-21. I am personally willing to assist in this effort in any way that you think helpful.

Sincerely,

Birch Bayh
United States Senator

A Special Washington
Report from
BIRCH BAYH



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