87TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
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AUTHORIZING A CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN PATENT SYSTEM

AUGUST 8, 1961.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. CELLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 499]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 499) authorizing a celebration of the American patent system, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this legislation is to have the President designate the week of October 15, 1961, as the American Patent System Week and to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, the Commissioner of Patents, and such other persons or groups as they may designate to make suitable arrangements for an appropriate observance of the American patent system on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Patent Act of 1836.

GENERAL STATEMENT

July 4, 1961, marked the 125th anniversary of the Patent Act of 1836, which created the present examination system for the grant of patents and which established the Patent Office as a separate and distinct bureau with a Commissioner of Patents as its head.

The 3 millionth patent under the general provisions of the 1836 Patent Act is expected to be granted on September 12, 1961.

Since the patent grant has been an additional incentive for the promotion of the useful arts, which has benefited the welfare of the people of the United States and the world, and since this function of the patent grant has assumed added significance in view of the present-day necessity of maintaining our technological lead and increasing the rate of economic growth of this Nation, it appears reasonable to observe these events in a proper manner.

Accordingly, the committee has been advised, the U.S. Department of Commerce and its Patent Office, in cooperation with the American Bar Association (Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Section), the American Patent Law Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association (Patent Section), the International Patent and Trademark Association (AIPPI), the National Association of Manufacturers (Committee on Patents), the National Council of Patent Law Associations, and the Patent Office Society have organized a program with the primary purpose of reappraising and emphasizing the manner by which the American patent incentive system can remain an effective stimulant to continued economic development and a vital factor in the discharge of our international responsibilities. This broad purpose requires programs which would reach the general public, particularly those having a creative mind such as inventors, scientists, and industrialists, and also requires general approval and sponsorship by the legislative and executive branches of our Government. A series of activities is therefore being planned, including a 3-day program commencing October 18, 1961, emphasizing the theme of "The Patent System and the Modern Economy" and highlighting the industrial, legal and practical operational problems of the patent system. Among others, officials of foreign patent offices have been invited to participate in the program as well as other events that will take place during the American Patent System Week celebration.

COST

The committee has been advised that no funds of the Patent Office will be necessary in financing the activities of the celebration. Several organizations, namely, the Patent Office Society, the American Patent Law Association, and the Patent Section of the American Bar Association, are contributing funds underwriting a portion of the celebration expenses. Several other patent law associations throughout the United States have made contributions for defraying local expenses of foreign visitors. Any additional funds needed will be raised by the sale of tickets for luncheons and banquets.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION

There follows the letter of the Department of Commerce dated July 19, 1961, sponsoring this legislation to which is attached a statement of need for and purpose of the proposed resolution:

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C., July 19, 1961.

Hon. SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There are enclosed four copies of a draft resolution for the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Commerce and the Commissioner of Patents and such other persons or groups as they may designate to make suitable arrangements for an appropriate observance of the American patent system on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Patent Act of 1836, which occurred on July 4, 1961.

This act created the present examination system for granting patents and established the U.S. Patent Office as a separate and distinct bureau with a Commissioner of Patents as its head. It is expected that the 3 millionth patent under the principles of this act will be granted in September 1961.

The patent grant has been a traditional incentive for the promotion of the useful arts thereby benefiting the welfare of the people of the United States and of the world. This function of the patent grant has assumed added significance in view of the present day necessity of maintaining the technological lead and increasing the rate of economic growth of the Nation. It appears proper, therefore, that the 125th anniversary of this act should be observed in a fitting manner.

The Department urges early congressional action to enable proper preparations to be made by October 18, 19, and 20, 1961, when it is contemplated the ceremonies of this celebration will be held.

We are advised by the Bureau of the Budget that no objection from the standpoint of the administration's program would be taken to the transmission of this draft joint resolution.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD GUDEMAN,
Under Secretary of Commerce.

STATEMENT OF NEED FOR AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

July 4, 1961, marked the 125th anniversary of the Patent Act of 1836, which created the present examination system for granting patents and which established the U.S. Patent Office as a separate and distinct bureau with a Commissioner of Patents as its head. It is expected that the 3 millionth patent under this act will be granted in September 1961.

The patent grant has been a traditional incentive for the promotion of the useful arts thereby benefiting the welfare of the people of the United States and the world. This function of the patent grant has assumed added significance in view of the present day necessity of maintaining the technological lead and increasing the rate of economic growth of this Nation.

It appears reasonable, therefore, that this anniversary of this important Patent Act and the establishment of the U.S. Patent Office should be observed in a fitting manner. Accordingly, the Department of Commerce is proceeding with plans for an industrial exhibit of an educational value to the public, a series of seminars by industrialists, engineers, inventors, members of the patent profession and guests from foreign patent offices on the theme of "The Patent System and the Modern Economy," tours of the Patent Office and discussions of patent office operational problems with foreign officials. The observance will include a banquet for approximately 1,400 persons. The Department of Commerce does not believe that an appropriation from the Congress is necessary and none is requested.

The resolution provides for the Secretary of Commerce and the Commissioner of Patents and such other persons or groups as they may designate to make suitable arrangements for an appropriate observance of this event which is so advantageous to this Nation and to other countries of the world.

A prime desire of the Department of Commerce is to place the American patent system and the U.S. Patent Office before the public with appropriate publicity. The encouragement of invention is essential to our welfare. It is felt that congressional recognition of the anniversary will help to make the people more keenly aware of the great part which the American patent system has played and is still playing in the continued development of our Nation.

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