

now occurs. This allows applicants to gain full patent protection—including reasonable royalties, damages, and attorneys fees when appropriate—for some of their component inventions earlier than they would have under the original draft of the bill.

I was also concerned that, as introduced, the bill did not adequately protect an applicant who is diligently prosecuting a patent but whose application takes more than 3 years to process. The ability to have a full 17 years of patent protection is important to small and large patent applicants alike. The Hatch-Leahy substitute makes clear that an applicant who diligently prosecutes a patent application before the PTO should receive a full 17 years of patent protection.

Another matter of special importance to me is the section I suggested be added in the Hatch-Leahy substitute to enhance access to patent information. I have long thought that electronic access should be more widespread, and I want to work with the Patent and Trademark Office to ensure the effective implementation of state-wide electronic accessibility of patent information in rural States and eventually in all areas to make it easier for inventors to study prior art and make further advances. This should be of particular benefit to Vermont, which is only now getting a patent and trademark depository library.

Although the goal of the reexamination provisions—reducing legal bills for patent applicants—was laudable, I was concerned that the legislation protect again harassment by third parties. The Hatch-Leahy substitute enhances protection against harassment by strengthening the estoppel provisions, to prevent a party from raising an issue that was raised or could have been raised in one forum from raising it in some other forum thereafter. In this way, the reexamination provision in the Hatch-Leahy substitute will provide an alternative to the current costly and time-consuming process of Federal litigation and, at the same time, protect patent applicants against undue harassment.

I am also glad that the substitute amendment clarifies that it is not the Senate Judiciary Committee's intent to undercut the Copyright Office in any way. The Copyright Office has served this country well for over a hundred years, and it should continue in that role.

Vermont has a great tradition of "Yankee ingenuity." In fact, the very first U.S. patent was granted to Samuel Hopkins, a native of Pittsford, VT, who discovered a process for making potash. Today's inventors can be much like the inventors of Thomas Jefferson's day—individuals in a shop, garage, or home lab. They can also be teams of scientists working in our largest corporations or at our colleges and universities. Our Nation's patent laws should be fair to American innovators of all kinds—independent inventors,

small businesses, venture capitalists, and larger corporations. To maintain America's preeminence in the realm of technology, which dates back to the birth of this republic, we need to modernize our patent system and patent office. Our inventors know this and that is why they support this legislation.

I am delighted that our Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, has joined as a cosponsor of this important legislation. I urge the Republican leadership to proceed to Senate consideration of S. 507 without delay.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 748. An act to amend the prohibition of title 18, United States Code, against financial transactions with terrorists.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2544. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to prescribed rates for tax purposes, received on July 17, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2545. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to finances under the Treasury Forfeiture Act of 1992 for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2546. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to extraordinary dividends (RIN1545-AU16), received on July 15, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2547. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Child Support Enforcement 20th Annual Report to Congress under the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2548. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to electronic funds transfer (RIN1545-AS79), received on July 11, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2549. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service,

Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to the electronic remittance processing system, received on July 11, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2550. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to guidance relating to waiver of penalties, received on July 11, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2551. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy Management Staff, Office of Policy Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to medical devices (RIN0910-AA09), received on July 21, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2552. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a violation of the Anitdeficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2553. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to radiological criteria, received on July 21, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2554. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to use of electronic media by commodity pool operators, received on July 21, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2555. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including one relative to contract reform initiative (RIN1991-AB28), received on July 21, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2556. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2557. A communication from the Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Gateway Housing Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2558. A communication from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Procedure For Imposing Assessments on the FHLBanks" (RIN3069-AA51), received on July 21, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2559. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of authorization of a contract for the H-60 program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2560. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, notice of retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2561. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Department of the Navy, transmitting, a notification of a study for private contractors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2562. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a notice of retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2563. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a notice of retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.