

MEMORANDUM

B2-Jud. Patents
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TO: Senator
FROM: Joe
DATE: May 18, 1979
RE: Norman Latker, former patent counsel for HEW
COPIES TO: P.A., Tom, Nels, Jim, Anne S., Ann H., Eve.

As you know at the hearings on your patent bill a number of witnesses expressed concern for the shabby treatment that Norman Latker received when he was abruptly fired as the patent counsel for HEW. You mentioned that you had personally expressed your belief that Mr. Latker had not done anything improper in connection with this bill, and that you were not satisfied with the explanation of the HEW action. Senator Dole also made a statement at the hearing in support of Norman Latker's professional competence.

M Norman came by and talked with me about his personal situation. He has had a very difficult time finding a suitable position because of the HEW firing (The American Patent Law Association, a number of universities, and Senators Dole, Mathias, and Packwood, in addition to you, have expressed their support of Mr. Latker to HEW).

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) has expressed an interest in exploring the area of innovation and productivity. Norman told me that he would be very interested in working with OTA in this area and had submitted a resume for a position. I think that Norman would be an excellent person for this study because of his unique personal experiences with the HEW research program which is one of the largest in the civilian agencies.

I recommend that you send the attached letter to the OTA expressing your interest in the problem of lagging innovation and productivity, and the related problem of making Government research and development more effective. The letter also states that you believe that Mr. Norman Latker would be an excellent choice to help OTA investigate this problem, and that you hope that his application for a position will receive serious consideration.

I have talked with Ralph Oman of Sen. Mathias' staff (Sen. Mathias is also on the OTA Board), and Brenda Levenson with Sen. Dole and they both indicated that their Senators would be happy to sign a letter of support for Norman Latker if you were interested in sending it.

I do not have any reservations about Norman Latker's ability to perform his work and because of his personal situation (which I feel was a direct result of his involvement with your bill) I think that Norman might need such a letter to overcome the stigma that the HEW action has placed on him.