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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

LES AUCOIN
16TH DISTRICT, OREGON

December 6, 1979

Dear Colleague:

The United States has always been a leading technological power. A high rate of innovation has meant rising productivity at home and a competitive edge in high technology products abroad. Innovation is a key ingredient in controlling inflation.

But the U.S. is losing ground to foreign nations. And though it is tough to measure many experts claim there has been an actual deceleration of the pace of innovation. Whatever the case may be, the fact remains that increased innovation will help us to maintain our competitive edge and to increase productivity, thereby reducing inflationary pressures.

We believe the time has come to focus more attention on the important role of innovation in our economy.

In an effort to create a greater awareness in the Congress about innovation, we have taken out a special order for a floor colloquy on innovation. The purpose of the colloquy--set for Thursday December 13--is to illustrate how increased innovation can help fight inflation and what can be done to remove the barriers to increased innovation. Among the topics to be discussed:

- Tax Policy: Capital formation is a key ingredient in providing the resources for stepped up innovation effort
- Foreign Trade: More innovation will improve our ability to compete with foreign products--both at home and abroad--but government regulation sometimes limits foreign markets, discouraging the development and marketing of new products
- Patent Procedures: Federal regulations often stymie the development and marketing of products and processes discovered through federally funded research
- Government Research: There are significant policy questions about the scope of the federal research effort. Perhaps more effort is needed in basic as opposed to applied research.
- The Administration's Innovation Initiative: The Administration has just completed a Domestic Policy Review on innovation and has initiated series of administrative and legislative actions.

These are the main subject areas that we hope to touch on during next Thursday's debate.

The colloquy will also serve as an opportunity for Members to talk about their own individual legislative efforts in particular areas such as taxation or foreign trade. And Members might wish to mention the success stories of firms in their districts--innovations or inventions that could result in increased productivity or lower prices.

We hope you will join us in this special floor debate, either in person, or by submitting a statement for the Record. If you would like to join us, or have questions, please contact David Knowles at 2-8855.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,


HENSON MOORE
Member of Congress


LES AUCOIN
Member of Congress


JEROME A. AMBRO
Member of Congress


GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.
Member of Congress