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EDC Competitiveness Working Papers

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1989

1990 MAR 29 P 4: 18
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ✓
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AND
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
POLICY
THE ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

SUBJECT: Research, Development, Technology, and Innovation

Economic growth and the standard of living in the United States in the 1990s will depend significantly on our ability to research and develop new technologies and convert these technologies into products for the marketplace.

The President has directed the Economic Policy Council (EPC) to develop a comprehensive strategy for improving research, development, technology, and innovation in our country. The EPC should prepare a report identifying our policy objectives in these areas and developing policy options for achieving those objectives.

The report should review all major research, development, technology, and innovation issues, including:

- o The most appropriate means for the federal government to encourage investment in research and development in the United States.
- o The best processes for converting ideas in the laboratories to products in the marketplace and removal of barriers to the private sector for converting such ideas into products.

- o The appropriate roles of government laboratories, university laboratories, and business and how they can best work together.
- o Access of American firms to international basic research and technology projects.

The report should develop broad principles for guiding Administration consideration of specific research, development, technology, and innovation issues, for example, HDTV and superconductivity.

The President has directed the Secretary of Commerce to lead the preparation of the report, working closely with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and other EPC members.

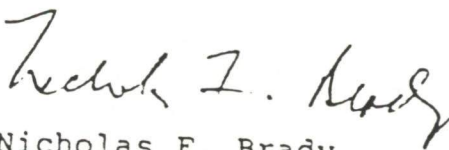
To develop the report and regularly review these issues after completion of the report, I am establishing an EPC Working Group on Research, Development, Technology, and Innovation. The Secretary of Commerce should designate a chairman.

The Working Group should include representatives from the Office of the Vice President, Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, and Energy, Office of Management and Budget, United States Trade Representative, Council of Economic Advisors, Office of Policy Development, Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and National Science Foundation. The members of the Working Group should be at the Assistant Secretary level or above.

The chairman of the Working Group should coordinate its activities with the Executive Secretary to the EPC.

The Working Group should present the report to the EPC within 90 days of this directive.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.


Nicholas F. Brady
Chairman Pro Tempore
Economic Policy Council

7002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ECONOMIC POLICY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Presidential Policy Directive --
Thomas A. Edison Prize

Pursuant to the Economic Policy Council memorandum of January 21, 1988, the President has approved establishing the Thomas A. Edison prize for technological innovation.

James A. Baker III

James A. Baker, III
Chairman Pro Tempore

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 26, 1988

THOMAS A. EDISON PRIZE

The President is today announcing his intention to forward to Congress a proposal establishing a national "Thomas A. Edison Prize" that would offer monetary incentives open to all residents of the United States to develop technologies that could improve quality of life in this Nation and the world.

BACKGROUND

The American system of free enterprise has been a bedrock for nurturing individual invention, creativity and entrepreneurship. The fruits of individual innovation in the United States in such areas as electronics, health care and medicine, and transportation have improved the quality of life in the United States and around the world.

As technological change becomes more rapid, the spirit and initiative of individuals with "a better idea" will play an important role in maintaining U.S. excellence and leadership in science, technology, and commerce.

THE THOMAS A. EDISON PRIZE

The President will forward to Congress a proposal to establish "The Thomas A. Edison Prize" program. This program has four goals:

1. Spurring inventors to apply their skills to areas in which there is great public benefit, but not necessarily strong market reward;
2. Prompting the exchange of ideas between scientific disciplines, potentially resulting in technologies and spin-offs beyond the original goal;
3. Stimulating interest in the benefits and opportunities offered by innovation and technology; and
4. Promoting young peoples' interest in science and technology.

This is a monetary prize program, which will operate in the following manner:

- o A blue ribbon panel of fifteen distinguished citizens representing all walks of life -- science, engineering, arts, and government -- will be appointed by the President for staggered tenures of five years each.

- The National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities will be asked to submit nominations for appointments to this panel.
- o The panel will oversee the periodic awarding of seven "Thomas A. Edison Prizes."
 - In the first year, up to three prize competitions will be announced; in the second year, not more than five prize competitions may be outstanding; in the third and fourth years, not more than seven prizes may be outstanding.
 - The program will have a 10 year sunset period, after which it will be determined if the prizes are effective.
- o The panel will have a total of \$10 million in Federal funds to award.
 - The panel may allocate this amount among the various announced prize competitions as it sees fit. At the time a competition is announced, the panel will stipulate both the amount of the prize and the number of years it will remain outstanding.
 - The prizes will be financed through a special federally-financed fund that will also accept public donations up to an amount to be determined by the panel.
- o The panel will periodically announce a category for which a Thomas A. Edison prize will be awarded.
 - Categories for prizes will be "outcome", rather than technology specific. There may be a vast number of technological means to achieve the designated outcome, and thereby win a Thomas A. Edison prize.
 - In determining prize categories, the panel will solicit ideas from the general public and organizations.
 - The panel will be guided by the goal that prize categories should be in areas where the private sector does not have adequate commercial incentives for invention or improvements. In effect, the categories will be goals for achieving humanitarian or "public good" results.
 - For a prize to be awarded, a submitter must demonstrate the "workability" of the technological solution he or she proposes to the panel.
- o Examples of areas in which the panel may choose to award Thomas A. Edison prizes are: prediction and prevention of natural calamities; waste disposal; and devices to overcome handicaps.
- o The Department of Commerce will administer the Thomas A. Edison Prize program.

ADDITIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

The Thomas A. Edison Prize program is one of a number of actions the Administration is taking to promote science and technology and to spur public interest, particularly among young people, in science and technology disciplines. These actions are included in the President's FY 1989 Budget proposal or Legislative Message:

- o Science and Technology and Engineering Research Centers:
The Administration has received approximately 400 to 500 formal proposals for establishing university-based Science and Technology Centers, as proposed by the President in his 1987 State of the Union Address, where Government, industry, academia, can come together in basic research that may lead to enabling technologies critical to U.S. competitiveness.

The President will propose in his FY 1989 Budget monies for a significant number of S&T Centers. The concept for S&T Centers was based on a highly successful predecessor program: Engineering Research Centers.
- o Doubling NSF's Budget: The President proposed last year doubling the NSF budget. The President's FY 1989 Budget will continue to support this goal.
- o Funding the National Medals: The President will propose in his FY 1989 Budget providing \$200,000 each to winners of the National Medals of Science and Technology and expanding eligibility to Federal scientists and engineers.
- o Superconductivity Initiative: The President will send soon to Congress his proposed omnibus superconductivity legislation.

During a 1987 White House conference on the commercial applications of superconductivity, the President announced an eleven point Superconductivity Initiative to promote further work in the field of superconductivity and ensure U.S. readiness in commercializing technologies resulting from recent and anticipated scientific advances.

- o Superconducting Super Collider (SSC): The President last year announced Administration plans for the construction of a national SSC facility, intended to be operational in 1996.

The SSC will help scientists and researchers gain a further understanding of the basic building blocks of matter. The host state for this project and our allies will share the cost of construction and operation as well as the benefits the SSC will afford for new discoveries in high-energy physics.

In addition, the Administration last year announced the following:

- o Executive Order 12591 of 1987: The President last year directed Federal agencies to take a number of important steps to swiftly assure U.S. commercial access to the Federal science and technology enterprise, including:

- improving the way the Federal Government manages federally developed R&D, primarily by devolving the rights of ownership and management to the lab and inventor level;

- providing incentives to lab managers and inventors to patent inventions and license them to the U.S. commercial sector. One example is royalty-sharing, permitting inventors to share in the royalty streams that result from licensing;
- developing a vigorous recruitment policy through the Department of State that encourages scientists and engineers from inside and outside Government to serve in U.S. embassies overseas; and
- developing a mechanism to ensure that U.S. industry benefits from information regarding research and technology abroad gathered by the Departments of State and Commerce and the NSF.

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