

Notes on PTC Progress

Conferences

Two conferences under the PTC's direction, "Policy Alternatives to Invention and Innovation" and "Computerized Access to Secondary Legal Materials," were held in Concord during the latter part of March and early April.

Invention and Innovation. James O'Bryon, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, opened the conference with discussion of the comprehensive Inventor Profile,¹ including information on characteristics of the inventor, the invention and its commercial applications, employer/employee relationships, and most importantly, opinions by inventors on the United States patent system. Two students from the M.I.T.'s Department of Electrical Engineering, Urszula Frydman and Diane Zingale, then presented the British Inventor Profile,² with data tabulated from the same source of questions asked of the American inventor. Each of these papers will be incorporated into one unit for future publication.

Afternoon and evening sessions consisted of lectures and workshop discussion on the role of the U.S. Government in providing incentives to invention and innovation arising not only within the Government but also within private-sector corporations and universities.

Those persons presenting position papers included:

William O. Quesenberry, Departmental Patent Director, Office of Naval Research;

Jacob Rabinow, Institute for Applied Technology, National Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce;

Jason Weisman, Energy Sciences, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts; and
Donald Moore, Director, Center for Industrial and Institutional Development, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

Secondary Legal Materials. A group of twenty-five librarians, legal editors, and lawyers participated in an intensive two-day workshop to discuss the feasibility of placing in a data bank abstracts derived from secondary legal materials. This conference grew out of a proposal put forth in IDEA (see Vol. 17, No. 1) that legal periodicals include abstracts, as do most scientific journals, and that each

¹ This project was undertaken cooperatively with the PTC and the Academy of Applied Science.

² The British Institute of Patentees and Inventors collaborated in the obtaining of this data which is expected to be published jointly by the British Institute and the PTC.