

Efforts Under Way to Streamline Patent Office

By JOSEPH D. HUTNYAN
United Press International
Washington—If U.S. Patent Commissioner David L. Ladd were the melodramatic type you could probably find him looking through his office window crying out plaintively:

"Technology, technology everywhere—but not a drop for me."
The 36-year-old commissioner is presiding over a governmental activity whose problems must present one of the classic ironies of our time.

The nation is in the midst of an unprecedented burst of inventiveness and technological progress that is helping everyone—and slowly crushing the Patent Office to death under a mountainous workload. Ladd, who is far from the walling type, is making a spirited effort to reorganize his office. The outcome could determine whether the present system will survive.

His new approach includes trying to adapt some of the new technology to speeding up the processing of patents. But so far, this phase of the reorganization has had only limited success.

Not Easy Job
Ladd, a former Chicago patent lawyer, stresses that the job of saving the present system won't be easy.

"The situation is not desperate," he said in an interview. "But on the other hand, the Patent Office has been chronically behind for a long time. I think the time has come when we will have to make a decision."

Ladd said that if the present reorganization does not improve the situation by the middle of next year, "there should be a comprehensive revision of the patent law."

The root of the problem is the growing increase in patent applications, which reached 80,229 in 1962. This was 16,000 more than the office received 10 years ago.

The crush is so great that it now takes about 3½ years from the time the application is submitted until final action is taken. The backlog at present is running about 197,000.

Information Explosion
This "information explosion"—as Ladd terms it—is one of the products of an age of frantic technological activity, spurred by defense requirements and an unquenchable thirst for a higher standard of living.

Inventive fashions are changing, too. Once the inventor was symbolized by the chap who puttered around in the garage or the basement.

That is no longer true. Technology now is mass produced in sleek new plants where large teams of white-coated scientists work at the job every day of the week.

In addition to this big increase in volume of new applications, the Patent Office is harassed by these other problems:

—The growing stack of patents that must be checked when a new application comes in is increasing to the point where 3,000 additional square feet will be needed every year to house them.

—This time-consuming activity is aggravated by a lack of trained personnel. Private industry is continually hiring away patent examiners.

Reclassification
Ladd's reorganization includes reclassification of the 10 million patents on file into fewer categories to speed up the examining process. The patents also are being filed with more logical emphasis on their subject matter.

For instance, some of the previous groupings contained such dissimilar subjects as: threshing, knotters, harvest-

ers, animal husbandry, bee culture and acoustics.

Now the stacks of patents are filed under such headings as: "General Chemistry," "Petroleum Chemistry," and "Coatings and Laminating."

The commissioner also is attacking the personnel problem by trying to improve working conditions. Examiners' salaries have been raised. Promotions now are governed by competency instead of seniority.

A new 22-week training program for examiners is aimed

at taking a first-year man and raising him to the competency of an examiner with three years experience.

In addition, the commissioner has set up a research and development section to try to find ways of adapting automated techniques to the laborious process of searching patents.

So far, there is no significant breakthrough. It seems that science's fancy new computers are capable of doing just about anything except checking out patents.

Nixon Cautions on Coexistence Line Of Soviet Premier

Berlin—UPI—Richard M. Nixon today warned against accepting Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's "coexistence line" which he said would perpetuate Communist domination of peoples who want to be free.

He told a news conference following his visit to Red-run East Berlin that it is "the most woolly type of thinking" to believe that Soviet acceptance of a partial test ban means the Russians want to relax tension.

He said the Communists, instead of trying to end the cold war, have stepped it up in Latin America, Europe,

Africa and Asia. **Should Use Power**
Nixon said in all negotiations with Khrushchev the United States should "insist on freedom for the peoples on whom Communist dictatorships have been imposed against their will, and the United States should use all its power—economic, diplomatic and ideological—to get some relief for repressed peoples."

"We should not buy Khrushchev's coexistence line in which he is saying he will draw a line down the world, keep what he has and try for more."

"I am not advocating a preventive war," he added. "But our goal must be not only peace, but peace in freedom. Every time Khrushchev huffs and puffs there is a crisis. When he stops huffing and puffing we say there is peace. But then there is more repression than ever."

"Some say Khrushchev now is beginning to end the cold war. The contrary is true. The Iron Curtain in Berlin is tighter than ever before."

"In Budapest there is a little less repression, but there is more now in Warsaw. The Communists are stepping up the cold war. They are ex-

panding on all fronts. "In Latin America now we have the greatest danger from communism that ever existed there."

Nixon said "short of war" the United States should stand up to the Soviets. He cited what he called "two major foreign policy errors" of the United States, one made in President Eisenhower's administration and the other in President Kennedy's.

For Same Reason
He said these were the American reaction to the Hungarian revolt in 1956 and the reaction to the Berlin wall in 1961.

"Both errors were made for the same reason," he said. "There was justifiable concern that more action than was taken would have run great risks. But looking back now we were in a position where the Communists were willing to take greater risks to extend their system than we were to extend freedom."

Nixon held his news conference before flying to the West German city of Frankfurt.

He said he would drive from Kronberg Castle, near Frankfurt, to Bonn Friday and meet with German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

From Germany he will go to Paris where he will lunch with President Charles de Gaulle.

Approximately 50 per cent of all one-family homes in the United States were built before 1929, note building authorities at Allied Chemical's Barrett Division.

The addition of a screened-in porch is one of the most popular summertime projects for do-it-yourselfers, according to building authorities at Allied Chemical's Barrett Division.

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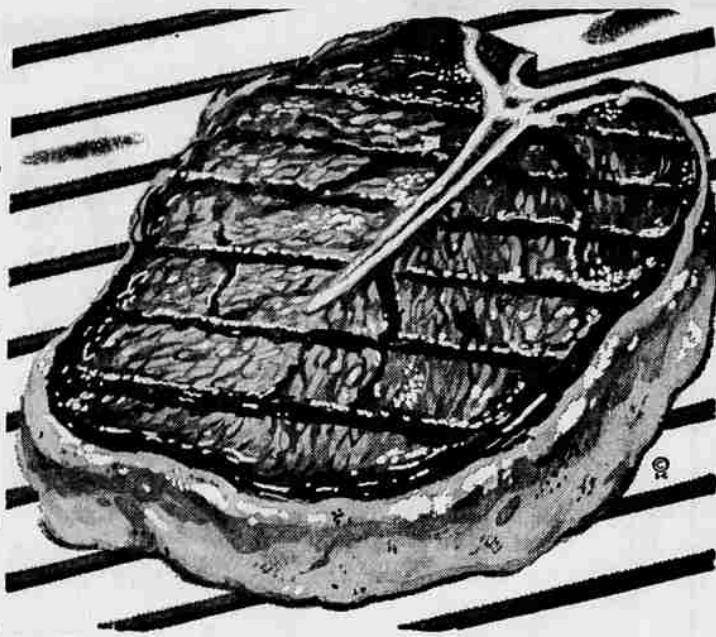
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History Conference Planned Saturday

Ashland—Dr. Vaughn Borne, chairman of the social science division at Southern Oregon College, will be among the speakers Saturday at the third annual Southern Oregon History conference to be held here.

Dr. Borne will speak Saturday morning prior to luncheon in the Mark Antony hotel on the subject "Centuries Ago: The U.S. in 1828."

Dr. Hector Lee, Colati, Calif., dean of instruction at Sonoma State college, will be the afternoon speaker. His topic will be "Blood and Bones Buried in Your Own Cascadia."

Other activities include a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Jacksonville Museum in Jacksonville and attendance at the performance of "Henry V" that evening at the Oregon Shakespearean theater in Ashland.

Dr. Arthur S. Taylor is chairman of the conference. Dust is a fire hazard. Remove it from electric motors before they become inefficient or burn out. A fire can result that's hard to put out.

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