

1	NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE	CONCURRENCE
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

*Mr. Friedman -*  
 This is all that came up from the Legal Division & I had expected something more.  
 Hope this may be of some use to you.  
*Stauffer*

FROM NAME OR TITLE	DATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE
<i>B-0032</i>	<i>19 Apr 48</i> <i>227</i>

Extract from the following disposition form:

SIGLG-1

Termination of Wartime Statutes, Proclamations and  
Executive Orders

Chief, Legislative and  
Liaison Division, SS, USA  
Atten: Col. Thomas N. Tappy

Office of the  
Chief Signal Officer

11 Dec 47  
Kintisch/71453

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2. a. With reference to Items 476, 477 and 478 of Senate Document No. 42, it is recommended that steps be taken to further amend the Secrecy Act of 1 July 1940, to make it permanent legislation.

b. At present the Secrecy Act provides that it will remain in force only during the time when the United States is at war. It is the opinion of the Chief Signal Officer that the interest of the United States requires equally during peace as in war that whenever the publication or disclosure of an invention by the granting of a patent by the United States or by the filing of an application in a foreign country in respect to an invention made in the United States, might be detrimental to the public safety or defense, the invention should be kept secret. The intensive research and development program in which the United States is now and will be increasingly engaged for years to come, would go for naught if the fruits of that effort could be made public property with impunity merely because the United States may not be engaged in active hostilities at the time. The criterion should be whether a disclosure might affect national defense and not whether the nation is at war. The cost of keeping such inventions secret would be small compared to the benefits to be derived from withholding such information from unfriendly governments.

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FOR THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER:

(signed)  
LOUIS M. HITCHCOCK, Maj, Sig C  
Executive

16 April 1948

Mr. Kintisch checked up on status of following bills, all of which have bearing on converting Public Law 700 (Secrecy Order Statute) into permanent rather than wartime legislation and found that these bills had not progressed beyond stage of being introduced and referred to committee:

HR 4420

S 1726

HR 5740

} all of 80th Congress

Lawrence Glermen

Patent Counsel

Legal Div., O.C. Sig. O.