Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. William F. Friedman, OOT
FROM: Mr. Henry B. Stauffer, 302L

DATE: 25 September 1952

SUBJECT: "Government Incentives, Awards and Rewards Program" Pamphlet

1. As I told you on the telephone, a copy of the subject pamphlet has been received direct from Army JAG.

2. It appears to me that the committee which prepared the report covered just about everything in the way of awards, rewards, and incentives; I can, in fact, think of nothing to add. It seems to me that even the matter of classified applications delayed in issue because of secrecy orders, which matter you queried, is substantially taken care of in the Committee's recommendations (page 26) from which it appears that the amounts of the awards and rewards should take into consideration the loss or retention of commercial rights.

3. I may say that my own view is that awards and rewards are not good in principle, and I would prefer to see them limited to suggestions and achievements not susceptible of other treatment. I believe it would be better, where patentable inventions are involved, to leave the commercial rights with the inventor in lieu of a cash award except where classification is a factor. This would, I feel, be cheaper, take nothing from the Government that it uses, and at the same time amount to a recognition of private property rights which the program or the pamphlet would tend to extinguish. The proposed program, in other words, adopts the principles of Executive Order 10096 which is not in accordance with my views or to my mind consistent with a number of well-known judicial decisions.

Sincerely,

Henry B. Stauffer
Chief, 302L