

## Comments of Glenn Johnston to the USPTO

Dear sir,

Innovation knows no color. Innovation knows no race. Innovation knows no gender. Innovation knows no nationality. Neither the diversity of, nor the monitoring of the diversity of patent applicants does anything to further the science and useful arts as mandated under the United States Constitution. There is, and should be no reason to study the diversity of patent applicants.

I object to the study of diversity of patent applicants as a wasteful use of federal, public monies, and I submit that the diversity of patent applicants is irrelevant to the health of scientific innovation, or as a means to fulfill some unrelated, redistributive agenda of this Administration.

Take, for example, the fact that the most common patent applicants are not individuals, but universities, and corporations, and you can see that diversity is utterly irrelevant to the equation.

Moreover, the fact of the matter is that among those applicants, including universities and corporations, there are significant numbers of expatriate scientists and scientific experts (including computer sciences) that are well represented in proportion to their actual position in global innovation.

Whether there are enough patent applications from the African diaspora, or from Africa, or whether there are enough patent applications from Indonesia, or from Peru or from persons of races from these areas of the world is simply a reflection of the overall status of those nations in the role of innovation, and any attempt to artificially inflate the growth of innovation from “underrepresented,” pools of patent applicants is simply an artificial means to skip over educational improvement for those segments of society that have not attended to education and innovation, and does a disservice to those truly innovating.

In a world that has given us Ralph H. Baer, Nikolai Basov, Clarence Birdseye, Robert Cailliau, James Ferguson, Enrico Fermi, Fazlur Khan, Kerim Kerimov, Artem Mikoyan, Fe Del Mundo, Yoshiro Nakamatsu, Julio Palmaz, Masotoshi Shima, or Gazi Yasurgil, does the fact that they are of a particular race in ANY way represent their contribution to the greater good of mankind, or the innovation of humanity? No. It does not.

Diversity is a political idea, that has its roots in a misguided belief that only when everyone is equal can society be perfect. This aim to “diversify innovation” will result in waste of public money searching for innovators that would have shown up anyway. As I said before, innovation knows no color, race, nationality, or gender. Innovation exists solely BECAUSE there are exceptional people and exceptional minds out there. Not because everyone is created equal.

Certainly there is nobility in uplifting the downtrodden, or assisting those in need. There is, however, no need to monitor or “improve” the diversity of patent applicants, at least not with public monies. Let the private interests of well-heeled citizens work on that problem.

Thank you for accepting my comments.

Very truly yours,  
Glenn M. Johnston