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31 March 1976

**HAROLD H. RUBIN, C.P.A.**  
1616 Belvedere Blvd.  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Dear Mr. Rubin:

Thank you for your letter of March 24th. The United States Department of Commerce is over the patent department. Since World War II, the patent department has had some authority over patent applications that relate to national defence. What relates to national defence is, of course, a highly subjective matter. Often the decision is made by one lone bureaucrat. Supposedly, the issuance of a secrecy order is restricted to things relating to atomic energy, nuclear inventions and the like. What I know in this area is only hearsay. I have not researched it out, but I have been told that my inventions on high-pressure equipment and the synthesis of diamonds are the only non-nuclear inventions that have ever been subjected to a secrecy order by the department of commerce during peace-time.

I hope this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely,

*H. Tracy Hall*

H. Tracy Hall

**HAROLD H. RUBIN, C.P.A.**  
**1616 Belvedere Blvd.**  
**Silver Spring, Maryland 20902**

March 24, 1976

H. Tracy Hall  
Distinguished Professor  
Chemistry Department  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, Utah 86402

Dear Professor Hall,

I have read with interest the article enclosed with your letter of March 19, 1976.

I am somewhat puzzled by the action of the Commerce Department in placing secrecy on your approach. I recognize that G. E. may have been a factor in this action, but I wonder whether you can tell me the official basis for the Commerce Department secrecy ban?

Sincerely

  
Harold H. Rubin