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From: Hayes, Gina
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2002 3:31 PM
To: [Bargaining Unit](#)
Subject: NTEU Legislative Update

In Judy Grundy's absence, I am temporarily serving as NTEU 245's Legislative Coordinator.

Howard Friedman, Kurt Vorndarn, our lobbyist, and myself attended today's Congressional Oversight Hearing on the PTO's fee schedule adjustment and revised Strategic Plan.

Although the subject matter for today's hearing was PTO fees and the Strategic Plan, Congressman Berman left the topic of discussion and grilled Director Rogan on the July 11, 2002 letter, which Berman and seven other key members of Congress (Conyers, Moran, Hoyer, Norton, Gilchrest, Miller, Davis, Morella and Baldwin) sent to Rogan. This letter was included in an e-mail from Howard Friedman to the bargaining unit yesterday.

Congressman Berman asked Rogan to hold off on effectuating the RIF until, at the earliest, he answered the questions raised in the letter. Rogan claimed he had not received the letter, which Congressman Berman noted was faxed to Rogan on July 11. Rogan stated that he would get the letter and respond. Berman told NTEU that he would forward Rogan's response as soon as he receives it. Berman also questioned Rogan on filings.

Also off topic, Congressman Coble raised the issue of outsourcing. In response to this question, Kathryn Barrett Park, Executive Vice President of INTA, noted the following reasons for INTA's opposition to outsourcing of searches:

1. Outsourcing doesn't reduce cost because examiners still have to look at the file.
2. Searches may be insufficient, which would require the examiner to complete his/her own search.
3. Courts put validity on examiner's searches because examiners are neutral civil servants. This will be lost with outsourcing.
4. Outsourcing will result in increased challenges to applications.

We are submitting a statement for the record.

I have attached a copy of a press release that NTEU issued at today's hearing.



press release.doc