

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 6, 1977

Mr. Max Baermann
Postfach 26
5060 Bergisch Gladbach 1
West Germany

Dear Mr. Baermann:

Congressman John F. Seiberling, after a communication with Mr. Frank Rote of General Tire and Rubber Company, brought to my attention that your invention of flexible magnetic tape has for many years found almost universal application in refrigerators for residential use in the United States. I understand that the United States Patent 2,959,832 expired November 15.

I am sure you know that some years ago, as a result of numerous deaths of small children from suffocation from becoming locked in abandoned refrigerators, many laws were passed to try to help solve the problem. The laws required that doors be removed from discarded refrigerators or that doors be capable of being opened from the inside using little force. It was your invention that permitted that alternative to become commercially viable. Its use undoubtedly resulted in saving many lives.

You certainly are to be commended for your very worthwhile contribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Esther Peterson
Special Assistant to the President
for Consumer Affairs

cc: Mr. Frank Rote
General Counsel
General Tire and Rubber Company
One General Street
Akron, Ohio 44329