



## EDWARD FENNELL IN THE CITY

### Any offers?

The United Kingdom Patent Office yesterday changed its name to United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office and apparently it now wants to be known as the UK-IPO.

Doing what it does I guess its first move should have been to file the name as a trademark. However, it seems that that step was overlooked. Instead, Joshi & Welch LLP, a public-spirited firm of specialist trademark attorneys, filed it so as "to forestall someone else from holding the Government to ransom over the name". It has now offered the name back to the Patent Office free of charge — accompanied, it must be said, by some snide comments to the effect that the Patent Office had rather fallen down on the job and "should have sought advice from professionals experienced in this area when going through a major change such as this".

For myself, I thought that it was seeming to put the UK up for an "initial public offer" which was the bigger scandal. But no doubt there would be more than one Russian oligarch keen to make an offer.