

# HEINONLINE

Citation: 2 William H. Manz Federal Copyright Law The Histories of the Major Enactments of the 105th S3390 1999

Content downloaded/printed from  
HeinOnline (<http://heinonline.org>)  
Wed Apr 10 13:34:33 2013

- Your use of this HeinOnline PDF indicates your acceptance of HeinOnline's Terms and Conditions of the license agreement available at <http://heinonline.org/HOL/License>
- The search text of this PDF is generated from uncorrected OCR text.

By Mr. HEFLIN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. FORD, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SIMON, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. COHEN):

S. 486. A bill to reorganize the Federal administrative law judiciary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. INOUYE):

S. 487. A bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 488. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a flat tax only on the earned income of individuals and the business taxable income of corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. Brown):

S. 489. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an appropriate form of agreement with the Town of Grand Lake, Colorado, authorizing the town to maintain permanently a cemetery in the Rocky Mountain National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 490. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exempt agriculture-related facilities from certain permitting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BREAU (for himself, Mr. HOLINGS, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 491. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of outpatient self-management training services under part B of the medicare program for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CHAFEE:

S. 492. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation for the vessel *Intrepid*, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 493. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation for the vessel *Consortium*; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. SNOE, MR. KENNEDY, MR. COHEN, MR. GREGG, MR. DODD, MR. SMITH, MR. CHAFEE, MR. KERRY, MR. LIEBERMAN, and MR. PELL):

S.J. Res. 28. A joint resolution to grant consent of Congress to the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. HELMS):

S. Res. 82. A resolution to petition the States to convene a Conference of the States to consider a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. BUMPERS):

S. Res. 83. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tax cuts during the 104th Congress; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one

Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

By Mr. MACK:

S. Res. 84. A resolution saluting Florida on the 150th anniversary of Florida's statehood, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 482. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel *Emerald Ayes*, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### "EMERALD AYES" CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION LEGISLATION

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I am introducing a bill today to direct that the vessel *Emerald Ayes*, official number 986099, be accorded coastwise trading privileges and be issued a certificate of documentation under section 12103 of title 46, United States Code.

The *Emerald Ayes* was constructed in Canada in 1992, and is a sailing catamaran for use as a recreational vessel. It is 34.6 feet in length, 18.2 feet in breadth, has a depth of 9.4 feet, and is self-propelled.

The vessel was purchased by Dr. Stephen D. Michel of Mount Pleasant, SC, who purchased it with the intention of chartering the vessel for short sailing tours. However, because the vessel was built in Canada, it did not meet the requirements for coastwise license endorsement in the United States. Such documentation is mandatory to enable the owner to use the vessel for its intended purpose. He first sought to purchase a U.S.-built vessel, but this type of sailboat is not built by any U.S. shipbuilders. He has invested a considerable amount of money in this vessel, and without a Jones Act waiver for the boat, he will be forced to sell it.

The owner of the *Emerald Ayes* is seeking a waiver of the existing law because he wishes to use the vessel for charters. His desired intentions for the vessel's use will not adversely affect the coastwise trade in U.S. waters. If he is granted this waiver, it is his intention to comply fully with U.S. documentation and safety requirements. The purpose of the legislation I am introducing is to allow the *Emerald Ayes* to engage in the coastwise trade and the fisheries of the United States.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. THOMPSON):

S. 483. A bill to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### THE COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT OF 1995

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, Congress has in recent years passed many significant copyright measures, but it is a rare occasion when we address the fundamental aspects of copyright protec-

tion, such as the nature of the works protected, the scope of rights recognized, or the duration of copyright.

Still, from time to time, it becomes clear that fundamental change is needed. I believe we are now at such a point with respect to the question of whether the current term of copyright adequately protects the interests of authors and the related question of whether the term of protection continues to provide a sufficient incentive for the creation of new works of authorship.

The current term of copyright is, in my view, inadequate to perform its historic functions of spurring creativity and protecting authors. Thus, I am filing today the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1995, which has the general purpose of increasing existing copyright terms by the addition of a further 20 years of protection. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator FEINSTEIN of California and Senator THOMPSON of Tennessee.

Mr. President, Congress has protected copyrights since the very first Congress, and the entire history of our copyright laws has been a history of ever-increasing protection, both with respect to the nature of works protected, as well as with respect to the duration of protection. Still, in over 200 years, the copyright term has only been extended on three prior occasions.

In 1790, the first Congress set the maximum term of copyright protection at 28 years—a 14-year initial period that could be renewed for an additional 14 years. In 1831, we extended that period by 14 years—a 28-year initial period that could be renewed for an additional 14 years. In 1909, the major copyright reform act of that era extended the maximum term of copyright to 56 years—a 28-year initial term that could be renewed for an additional 28 years.

Most recently, the Copyright Act of 1976 fundamentally altered the way in which we measure copyright by protecting works throughout the life of their creator plus an additional 50 years. In so doing, we adopted the prevailing international standard of protection—a standard that was first recommended by the members of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in the Act of Berlin of November 13, 1908, and that was made mandatory for members of the Berne Union by the Act of Brussels of June 26, 1948.

For existing works, the Copyright Act of 1976 created a maximum term of 75 years of protection—a 34-percent increase in terms of protection over the preceding maximum of 56 years. The 20-year increase in protection that the Copyright Extension Act of 1995 provides for existing works is a far more modest extension of copyright than that which we adopted in 1976, or, in fact, that which was implemented by the two previous congressional extensions of copyright term.

Every work created after the effective date of the Copyright Term Extension Act will be prospectively protected for the remainder of the author's life and for 70 years thereafter. Works in existence on that date will receive the identical protection, if their author is still living. As for the works of authors already deceased, my bill provides an additional 20 years of protection; provided, that the works have not, on the effective date of the bill, already gone into the public domain.

Those works whose term of protection under the current Copyright Act is not tied to the life of an author but is a fixed term of years, such as works made for hire, will also receive an additional 20 years of protection. Where they are protected for 75 years under present law, they will be protected for 95 years under the provisions of the Copyright Term Extension Act.

By providing this across-the-board extension of copyright for an additional 20 years, I believe that authors will reap the full benefits to which they are entitled from the exploitation of their creative works. In addition, there are significant trade benefits to be obtained by extending copyright in the United States to bring our law into conformity with the longer copyright term enjoyed by authors in other nations.

As I noted above, our current basic copyright term of life plus 50 years is prevailing international standard, one now also applicable to the members of the World Trade Organization through the implementation of the Agreement on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Protection [TRIPS]. Despite the nearly universal adoption of the life-plus-50-year term of copyright, many have observed that the term itself, particularly the decision to give significance to 50 years, has achieved dominance perhaps more through imitation and acceptance than through an analytical belief that the life-plus-50-year term represents the ideal period of protection needed to appropriately reward and inspire creative activity. See, that is, Ricketson, "The Berne Convention for the protection of literary and artistic works: 1886-1986" p. 32.

While the [Berne Convention's] prescriptions as to duration are quite precise, there has never been any real effort made to justify why, or to explain how, these terms have come to be adopted \*\*\*

Even though the United States adopted the life-plus-50-year term of copyright only 19 years ago, and even though that term of protection has a nearly century-old history in the international arena, I do not believe that it should be accepted uncritically as an ideal or even sufficient measurement of the most appropriate duration for copyright term. Instead, we should be aware of the many nations that have historically provided longer terms of copyright as well as the recent developments to extend copyright in Europe. Also, we need to examine the real-life experience of creators, their reasonable

expectations for exploiting their works, and the concerns and views of the descendants, heirs, and others whom the postmortem protection of copyright was designed to benefit.

Among the European nations, Germany and Spain have for some time recognized respectively terms of life plus 70 years and life plus 80 years, and Portugal has for much of this century provided a perpetual term of protection. In addition, it is common for bilateral agreements relating to copyright protection among particular nations to provide for terms of protection in excess of the life-plus-50-year standard.

As far as a general reconsideration of the life-plus-50-year term, it should be noted that as long ago as 1961 the permanent committee of the Berne Union began the process of reexamining the sufficiency of that term of protection. At the Stockholm Conference of 1987, a proposal to increase the copyright term to life plus 80 years was debated though not adopted. It is, however, easy to speculate that the failure to increase copyright term at that time may have been disproportionately influenced by the contemporaneous efforts in the United States to adopt a copyright act compatible with the existing minimum requirements of the Berne Convention. An extension of the minimum term at that time would, however meritorious, surely have made more difficult the eventual adoption of the Copyright Act of 1976 in the United States.

In the intervening years, the inadequacy of the life-plus-50-year term has become more apparent, and nations have acted to increase the duration of copyright. Most significantly, the nations of the European Union, pursuant to an October 1993, directive of the Council of the European Communities, are committed to reaching a life-plus-70-minimum term of protection by July of this year. It is thus fair to say that for a significant portion of the developed world—for the nations, moreover, that have traditionally been in the forefront of protecting authors' rights—the term of life-plus-70 has gained a broad acceptance.

I am pleased to be the author of the bill that I hope will bring American copyright law into accord with this developing international understanding as to the appropriate duration of copyright.

The benefits of extending copyright by 20 years will be felt in many areas. The vast majority of our European and other trading partners have obligated themselves to extend to our authors the full protection of their copyright laws—at least to the extent that America recognizes complementary rights. Of course, I should add that with respect to the minimum requirements for copyright protection, national treatment for U.S. authors is mandated by the Berne Convention as well as by the TRIPS agreement. But copyright protections in excess of the Berne minima

will not be freely granted to U.S. authors on the basis of national treatment. Instead, the option allowed by the Berne Convention's "rule of the shorter term" will no doubt be often employed by foreign states with the result that American works will be protected in those nations only to the extent that the works of their authors are protected in America—article 7(1) of the EC directive explicitly mandates rule of the shorter term treatment for the works of foreign authors.

After the European law goes into effect, American authors will be theoretically protected for an additional 20 years, but will in reality be unprotected for that entire period of time—unless American law is strengthened in the manner proposed by the bill I am filing today.

America exports more copyrighted intellectual property than any country in the world, a huge percentage of it to the nations of the European Union. Intellectual property is, in fact, our second largest export; it is an area in which we possess a large trade surplus. At a time when we face trade deficits in many other areas, we cannot afford to abandon 20 years' worth of valuable overseas protection now available to our creators and copyright owners. We must adopt a life-plus-70-year term of copyright if we wish to improve our international balance. It just makes plain common sense to ensure fair compensation for the American creators whose efforts fuel this important intellectual property sector of our economy by extending our copyright term to allow American copyright owners to benefit from foreign uses. By so doing, we guarantee that our trading partners do not get a free ride for their use of our intellectual property.

While we may be accustomed to a substantial American balance-of-trade surplus with respect to trade in works of intellectual property, we cannot afford to take this condition for granted. In a world economy where copyrighted works flow through a fiber optic global information infrastructure, American competitiveness demands that we adapt our laws—and adapt them quickly—to provide the maximum advantage for our creators.

Anonymous and pseudonymous works: I noted about that the copyright term extension provided by the bill I file today is not mandated by our treaty obligations. But it may be well to note parenthetically that at least in one respect the 20-year term extension does advance our ongoing efforts to fulfill our obligations under the Berne Convention. I am speaking of the term of protection applicable to anonymous and pseudonymous works. Article 7(3) of the Berne Convention mandates that such works be protected for at least 50 years after they are first made lawfully available to the public. Our current law protects those works for 75 years, yet §302(c) of the Copyright Act also establishes a maximum term of protection—

100 years from the date of their creation—beyond which no anonymous or pseudonymous work will be protected, regardless of the date on which it may ultimately be made available to the public. My bill increases each of these terms by 20 years.

Since the Stockholm Act of July 14, 1967, the Berne Convention has recognized the need for an outer limit on the protection of anonymous and pseudonymous works by providing that, "The countries of the Union shall not be required to protect anonymous or pseudonymous works in respect of which it is reasonable to presume that their author has been dead for fifty years." Art. 7(3). It has been argued that the American provision setting an outer limit of 100 years of protection for anonymous and pseudonymous works is in violation of the Berne Convention, see Nimmer, "Copyright" § 9.01[D], at least with respect to works whose country of origin is not the United States. By increasing the maximum protection from its current 100 years to a period of 120 years, the Copyright Term Extension Act will at least serve to reduce greatly the number of potential situations in which our law may operate in violation of the Berne Convention. This is for the reason that it is far more reasonable to presume that an author who created a work 120 years ago may have been deceased for 50 years, than it is to presume that the author of a work created only 100 years ago may have been deceased for at least 50 years.

Mr. President, that is the theoretical, one might say jurisprudential, background of the copyright issue before us today. But it may be well to consider this legal question in its practical aspect as well. What works are we talking about? Who is affected by this legislation?

Mr. President, this legislation matters and it matters to some of the most distinguished members of America's cultural and artistic community. If we examine the significance of this legislation just in the area of popular music alone, I believe we will see its importance.

Consider the following songs that fell into the public domain just 2 months ago at the end of 1994—works still widely performed in theaters and through media around the world:

"Swanee" by George Gershwin and Irving Caesar; "A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody" by Irving Berlin; "Alice Blue Gown" by Joseph McCarthy and Harry Tierney.

In the preceding 2 years, the following standards also lost copyright protection, despite their continued popularity: "After You've Gone" by Henry Creamer and Turner Layton; "Till the Clouds Roll By" by Jerome Kern and P.G. Wodehouse; "Over There" by George M. Cohan; "Till We Meet Again" by Richard Whiting and Raymond Egan.

If the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1995 is not adopted this year in this

session of Congress, the following songs will no longer be protected by copyright: "Look for the Silver Lining" by Jerome Kern and Bud DeSylva; "Avalon" by Al Jolson, Bud DeSylva, and Vincent Rose.

Within the next few years, if Congress does not act to adopt legislation such as that which I introduce today, the following musical works will also fall into the public domain: "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin; "My Buddy" by Walter Donaldson and Gus Kahn; "What'll I Do" by Irving Berlin; "Georgia" by Walter Donaldson and Howard Johnson; "It Had To Be You" by Isham Jones and Gus Kahn; "Showboat" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II.

All of these songwriters and composers are household names still, after 75 years. Indeed "Showboat" is back on Broadway, eight performances a week, nearly 70 years after its premiere.

But I would like to draw particular attention to the career of Walter Donaldson. He composed the songs cited above when he was in his twenties, and he died in 1947 when he was in his midfifties. He composed innumerable standards and will forever be linked to the extraordinary success of the 1927 film "The Jazz Singer" in which his songs were sung by Al Jolson. The historical significance of that motion picture, the first sound film to be commercially released, can hardly be overstated.

If the present copyright law had been in effect in the 1920's, all of Walter Donaldson's compositions would fall into the public domain within the next 2 years. Yet these historical facts should not mislead us into thinking that the copyright status of his works is an academic issue. For it was Ellen Donaldson, the composer's daughter, who first alerted me to the importance of this issue only 2 years ago. I do not think she will mind my pointing out that she is now only in her early fifties. She remains extremely active in publishing and exploiting her father's music and in protecting his copyrights. Like the children of composers such as Richard Rogers, Irving Berlin, Richard Whiting, Hoagy Carmichael, and many, many others, her legitimate interest in her father's copyrights can be expected to continue for decades, certainly for another 20 years.

Mr. President, from interviews I have had with writers, authors, and artists of all kinds, and from the hearings we have held on issues of concern to authors in the Judiciary Committee over the past 18 years, I have come to the conclusion that the vast majority of authors expect their copyrights to be a potentially valuable resource to be passed on to their children and through them into the succeeding generation. I believe that they are reasonable in this expectation and that such a general expectation is what the Framers of the Constitution had in mind when they constrained the power of Congress to grant patents and copyrights only with

the very broad and flexible requirement that such rights be granted "for limited times." Article I, section 8. When, however, we so often see copyrights expiring before even the first generation of an author's heirs have fully benefited from them, then I believe that is accurate to say that our term of copyright is too short and for a too limited time.

One could also cite demographic factors that point to the need for a longer term if copyright is truly to reflect the natural desire of authors to provide for their heirs. Principal among these would be the increasing lifespan of the average American, as well as the increasing fact of children being born far later, in a marriage than in past decades. Whatever the reason, the inescapable conclusion must be drawn that copyrights in valuable works are too often expiring before they have served their purpose of allowing an author to pass their benefits on to his or her heirs. I urge my colleagues to pass the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1995 to remedy this situation.

Mr. President, we in Congress are currently dealing with a number of fundamental issues that bring into question how we have done things in the Federal government over many years. These debates raise the question of the proper role of the Federal Government in sponsoring, stimulating, and, where appropriate, funding artistic activity across a wide range of fields. We are asking virtually every Federal program now in existence to justify its function. And, as a result, we hear much about the programs that do not work.

We hear all too little about the good that Government can do when it functions in a limited and effective way. I would submit that the copyright system—in the way that it rewards private initiative through governmental protection, all without the need for a regulatory bureaucracy—is a model for the best that government can do to improve the life of its citizens.

And when one considers that all works of creativity fixed by any method now known or later developed are invested from the moment of their creation with substantial rights that can be protected in any Federal court, then I think it becomes clear that the copyright system is something we should encourage and, where appropriate, extend.

Because the bill I introduce today does extend the benefits of copyright in an appropriate and obviously needed way, I am proud to be its sponsor. I urge my colleagues to give it their most serious consideration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## S. 483

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Copyright Term Extension Act of 1995".

## SEC. 2. DURATION OF COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS.

(a) PREEMPTION WITH RESPECT TO OTHER LAWS.—Section 301(c) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking out "February 15, 2047" in each place it appears and inserting "February 15, 2067" in each place.

(b) DURATION OF COPYRIGHT: WORKS CREATED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1978.—Section 302 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in subsection (a) by striking out "fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof "seventy";

(ii) in subsection (b) by striking out "fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof "seventy";

(iii) in subsection (c) in the first sentence—(A) by striking out "seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof "ninety-five"; and

(B) by striking out "one hundred" and inserting in lieu thereof "one hundred and twenty"; and

(iv) in subsection (e) in the first sentence—(A) by striking out "seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof "ninety-five";

(B) by striking out "one hundred" and inserting in lieu thereof "one hundred and twenty"; and

(C) by striking out "fifty" in each place it appears and inserting "seventy" in each such place.

(c) DURATION OF COPYRIGHT: WORKS CREATED BUT NOT PUBLISHED OR COPYRIGHTED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1978.—Section 303 of title 17, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence—

(i) by striking out "December 31, 2002" in each place it appears and inserting "December 31, 2012" in each such place; and

(2) by striking out "December 31, 2027" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 2047".

(d) DURATION OF COPYRIGHT: SUBSISTING COPYRIGHTS.—

(i) Section 304 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in subparagraph (B) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67"; and

(II) in subparagraph (C) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67";

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67"; and

(II) in subparagraph (B) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67"; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67"; and

(II) in subparagraph (B) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67"; and

(B) in subsection (b) by striking out "seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof "ninety-five".

(2) Section 102 of the Copyright Renewal Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-307; 106 Stat. 266; 17 U.S.C. 204 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking out "47" and inserting in lieu thereof "67";

(ii) by striking out "(as amended by subsection (a) of this section)"; and

(iii) by striking out "effective date of this section" each place it appears and inserting in each such place "effective date of the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1995"; and

(B) in subsection (g)(2) in the second sentence by inserting before the period the following: " except each reference to forty-seven years in such provisions shall be deemed to be sixty-seven years".

## SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as always when it comes to matters of copyright law, the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee has spoken well and to the point as to why extending the basic term of copyright protection by 20 years is both the right and the economically desirable thing to do, and to do without delay. As the bill's coauthor, I'd like to add just a few thoughts about our proposal to extend the length of copyright protection for only the fourth time since the Founding Fathers established such rights more than 200 years ago.

First principles come first. The fundamental animating principle of copyright protection was—and remains—aspiring that the Nation's most creative individuals have and retain a sufficient economic incentive to continue to craft, work by copyrightable work, the incomparable mosaic of our Nation's cultural life. For many years now, such incentive has been considered to be the right to profit from licensing one's work during one's lifetime and to take pride and comfort in knowing that one's children—and perhaps their children—might also benefit from one's posthumous popularity. Indeed, it was to preserve that incentive that Congress adopted the current life plus 50 years term that is now the law.

Human longevity, however, is increasingly undermining this fundamental precept of copyright law. Mr. President, and with it the economic incentive deemed essential by the authors of the Constitution. We all had the great good fortune, for example, to have the incomparable Irving Berlin among us until 1989, when he died at the age of 101. By that time, however, Mr. Berlin had outlived the period in which he was entitled to royalties from the immortal "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Although not every American copyright owner will reach the century mark, Mr. President, it's clear that we as a Nation are living longer and more active lives.

Copyright law has in the past—and should now again—reflect that central fact of life. Accordingly, the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1995 uniformly extends the life of copyright protection in this country by 20 years, a modest extension relative to past adjustments, as Chairman HATCH points out. Writers, artists, filmmakers, composers, photographers, sculptors, and cartographers alike—and their children, all will benefit from this overdue adjustment. Perhaps more importantly, as the ultimate beneficiaries of the creativity that copyright protection is intended to assure, so will we all.

Second, Mr. President, as important as America's cultural enrichment is, the United States also stands to benefit dramatically on the world economic stage from extension of the current copyright term. As the tense and protracted negotiations with China just

concluded underscored, intellectual property—the collective copyrightable output of America's creators of movies, music, art and other works—is an enormous asset to the Nation's balance of trade.

Indeed, in a recent Billboard magazine commentary, Prof. Arthur Miller of the Harvard Law School noted that: "In 1990, America's 'copyright' industries recorded \$34 billion in foreign sales \*\*\*." It's no wonder, Mr. President, that the Chinese preferred to appropriate American film and music for resale—two great exports from my State of California—rather than license American works.

By extending to life plus 70 years the basic copyright protection afforded in the United States for new works, Congress will assure comparable protection for American authors in the countries of the European Union, which will formally adopt the life-plus-70 standard this summer. If we do not act, Mr. President, those nations quite simply will not be required to provide American authors, artists and other copyright holders with more than the protection we afford their intellectual property holders here at home. Simply put, Mr. President, conforming our intellectual property laws with those of our trading partners in the service of American competitiveness is critical.

As Professor Miller aptly put it: "Unless Congress matches the copyright extension adopted by the European Union, we will lose 20 years of valuable protection against rip-off artists around the world." I'm certain that the tired, but successful team from the United States Trade Representative's office just returned from China will testify if asked, Mr. President, that the stronger our copyright laws here at home, the better the deal they can negotiate for American copyright holders abroad. Since America is—and is likely to remain—the world's principal exporter of popular culture, extension of the basic copyright term makes international dollars and sense.

Third, and finally, Mr. President, I want to note for the record the extraordinary support for this legislation within the intellectual property community. Not only do movie and music companies strongly back this bill as written, as one would expect, but book and music publishers, performing rights societies representing America's premier songwriters and composers, and major software producing firms all concur that Congress can and must pass this important legislation.

I want to thank Chairman HATCH and his staff once again, Mr. President, for another—to my mind—successful collaboration to protect and encourage the production of American intellectual property. Just as was the case with the digital performance rights legislation which we first introduced in the last Congress and jointly offered again recently, it is equity and economics which make the Copyright

Term Extension Act of 1995 an important and worthwhile bill.

I commend it to my colleagues, and look forward to working with them and the copyright community at large to put it—as well as digital performance rights legislation—before the President by the end of this session of Congress. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that additional material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Billboard magazine, January 14, 1995]  
EXTENDING COPYRIGHTS PRESERVES U.S. CULTURE

(By Arthur R. Miller)

Beginning this summer, all member nations of the European Union will extend the length of copyright protection to the life of the author plus 70 years. Should we in America provide the same protection for our own writers, musicians, artists, computer programmers, and other creators of copyrighted items?

Some feel that we should not tamper with existing U.S. law, which provides copyright protection for life plus 50 years. But this statu quoism ignores some fundamental changes that have occurred in the 20th century.

One of the major reasons Congress originally adopted life-plus-50 years was to offer protection not only to the creator of the copyrighted works, but to his or her children and grandchildren—that is, to three generations in all. With people living longer today, an extension of the copyright term by 20 years would roughly correspond to the increase in longevity that has occurred during the 20th century.

In addition, Congress has already recognized the wisdom of extending copyright protection to match the terms guaranteed by other nations. That is exactly what Congress did in 1976 when it extended the copyright term to life-plus-50 years, in order to bring American law into line with the term then commonly recognized by other nations.

But beyond this, the main arguments for term extension are equity and economics.

If Congress does not extend to Americans the same copyright protection afforded Europeans, American creators will have 20 years less protection than their European counterparts—20 years during which Europeans will not be paying Americans for our copyrighted products. This situation would not only be unfair to creators of copyrighted works, but would be harmful economically to the country as a whole.

The export of intellectual property is growing at a tremendous rate because America dominates popular culture the world over. In 1990, America's "copyright industries" recorded \$34 billion in foreign sales of records, CDs, computer software, motion pictures, music, books, scientific journals, periodicals, photographs, designs, and pictorial and sculptural works. Because the world is so eager for the products of America's copyright industries, they are one of the few bright spots in our balance-of-trade picture.

The question of copyright extension should be viewed in the larger context of bilateral and multilateral trade talks—including the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) negotiations under GATT. U.S. trade representatives have found that shortcomings in our own copyright law are used against us when we call for stronger protection for American works overseas. One can just hear the Europeans objecting in future negotiations: "How can you ask for better

protection in Europe when you do not even grant the same term of protection we do?"

The need for strong copyright protection becomes more important every year as a weapon with which to fight the piracy of intellectual property. Overseas piracy of American copyrighted material has grown dramatically in recent years due to the availability of equipment that can make cheap copies of movies, videotapes, sound recordings, and computer programs. As more and more digital technology arrives on the scene, the problem will only become worse.

Indeed, China alone produced an estimated \$2 billion worth of counterfeit recordings and computer discs last year. According to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, China now has as many as 26 factories capable of producing 62 million compact discs. China's domestic market accounts for only about 3 million discs, so the dimension of the loss to copyright owners is obvious. Unless Congress matches the copyright extension adopted by the European Union, we will lose 20 years of valuable protection against rip-off artists around the world.

It would not take long to see what harm can come from not changing our laws to match those of Europeans. America may be a young nation, but we have the world's oldest popular culture. Many wonderful motion pictures and songs—including Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Rag Time Band"—already have lost their copyright protection. Dozens, if not hundreds, of other valuable songs and motion pictures—the legacy of American culture—also will lose their protection in the next few years. For example, if Congress does not act soon, such classics as "After You've Gone," "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows," "A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody," "Swanee," and "The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise" will fall into the public domain, and that is only the beginning.

Commentary writer Professor Lewis Kurlantzick (Billboard, Oct. 29, 1994) asserted that when copyrighted works lose their protection, they become more widely available. At first blush, this appears logical. But, paradoxically, works of art become less available to the public when they enter the public domain—at least in a form that does credit to the original. This is because few businesses will invest the money necessary to reproduce and distribute products that have lost their copyright protection and can therefore be reproduced by anyone. The only products that do tend to be made available after a copyright expires are "down and dirty" reproductions of such poor quality that they degrade the original copyrighted work. And there is very little evidence that the consumer really benefits economically from works falling into the public domain.

Kurlantzick also denigrates the importance of long-term copyright protection by stating that "a dollar to be received 75 years from now is worth a small fraction of one cent." But, he fails to see that the dollar value placed on future copyright advantages will increase more or less in proportion with the inflation rate. That is to say, if the dollar loses 90% of its value over the next 75 years, then the cost of goods and services will be roughly 90% higher in 75 years than it is today.

For all these reasons, it's clear why Congress should act. America can reap valuable benefits, at no cost to itself, if Congress enacts legislation to extend our copyright protection by 20 years. By harmonizing our laws with the EU, we can reduce our balance-of-trade deficit, encourage economic investment, strengthen our hand in dealing with intellectual piracy, and see to it that America's authors, composers, artists, and computer programmers receive the same level of

protection afforded the creative people of other nations. Thus, copyright term extension makes economic sense, and it's equitable.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 484. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a national clearinghouse to assist in background checks of applicants for law enforcement positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION ACT OF 1995

- Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I introduce the Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers Employment Registration Act of 1995, which will establish a national clearinghouse to assist in background checks on law enforcement applicants.

This legislation would establish a national data bank to provide quick, accurate and prior officer employment history on all applicants for law enforcement agencies. This clearinghouse has been called a Pointer File and simply maintains basic information of all certified officers, including names, dates of birth, social security numbers, dates of employment, and any decertifications. The Department of Justice would maintain and offer computer access to all criminal agencies.

The intent of my legislation is to help prevent what "Dateline NBC" has referred to as gypsy cops. These are police officers who have been dismissed or have been forced to resign from previous positions but conceal prior employment history in future job applications.

In the case of the beating death of Bobby Jewett on November 24, 1990, in West Palm Beach, FL, "Dateline NBC" was able to subsequently trace the prior employment histories of the two officers involved in the case through four States and eight different law enforcement agencies. Much of this had been concealed in their job applications.

As noted in a Tampa Tribune editorial in support of a clearinghouse,

Few agencies, particularly those in rural areas and smaller towns, have the personnel and resources to conduct thorough background checks on police applicants. Not even the largest agencies always succeed in finding an officer's past if he or she is determined to hide it.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner James T. Moore adds, "Experience has shown that, after being found guilty of misconduct, many problem officers resign or are fired, only to seek police jobs elsewhere. The clearinghouse system would allow a law enforcement agency to review each officer applicant's prior history as an officer." In order to protect the rights of officers, however, the clearinghouse would not contain information relating to causes of dismissal.

Thomas J. O'Loughlin, chief of police of Wellesley, MA, notes,

## **Document No. 44**