

# Announcement

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540

---

## NEW EXTENSION BILL PASSED BY SENATE

On July 23, 1971, the Senate passed S. J. Res. 132, which had been introduced on July 15, 1971, by Senator John L. McClellan. S. J. Res. 132 reads as follows:

### JOINT RESOLUTION

Extending the duration of copyright protection in certain cases.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in any case in which the renewal term of copyright subsisting in any work on the date of approval of this resolution, or the term thereof as extended by Public Law 87-668, by Public Law 89-142, by Public Law 90-141, by Public Law 90-416, by Public Law 91-147, or by Public Law 91-555 (or by all or certain of said laws), would expire prior to December 31, 1972, such term is hereby continued until December 31, 1972.

The joint resolution provides for the automatic extension of copyrights in their renewal term that would otherwise expire on December 31, 1971. Six earlier Acts of Congress (P. L. 87-668, P. L. 89-142, P. L. 90-141, P. L. 90-416, P. L. 91-147, and P. L. 91-555) have extended second-term copyrights which would have expired between September 19, 1962 and December 31, 1971, to the end of 1971. The present measure, if enacted, will further extend the duration of those copyrights to December 31, 1972, and will also extend to December 31, 1972, second-term copyrights that were due to expire during 1972.

Attached is the statement made by Senator McClellan on introducing the measure.

Attachment:

Statement from Congressional Record

By Mr. McCLELLAN:

S.J. Res. 132. A joint resolution extending the duration of copyright protection in certain cases. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights of the Committee on the Judiciary, I introduce, for appropriate reference, a joint resolution extending the duration of copyright protection in certain cases.

The purpose of this legislation is to continue until December 31, 1972, the renewal term of any copyright subsisting on the date of approval of this resolution, or the term as previously extended by Public Law 87-668, by Public Law 89-142, by Public Law 90-141, by Public Law 90-416, by Public Law 91-147, or by Public Law 91-555. The objective of this resolution, as well as the preceding interim extensions, is to temporarily continue the renewal term of copyright pending the enactment by the Congress of a general revision of the copyright law, including a proposed increase in the term of copyright.

It is apparent that the Congress cannot complete action during this session on the legislation for general revision of the copyright law. The copyright revision bill has been delayed for several years principally because of the cable television controversy. More recently the Congress has been awaiting action by the Federal Communications Commission on the necessarily related communications aspects of CATV. The Congress has now been advised by the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission that the Commission anticipates completing its current CATV rule-making proceedings before the start of the summer recess of the Congress. Clearly, however, adequate time will not remain for action on the revision bill and, therefore, it is necessary to consider another temporary extension of copyrights.

The Senate on April 29 passed S. 646 to provide for the creation of a limited copyright in sound recordings for the purpose of protecting against the unauthorized duplication and piracy of such records. A subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on July 1 reported this legislation with an amendment providing that the grant of copyright protection in recordings shall expire on December 31, 1973. I am not personally acquainted with the reasons for this amendment, but it appears that the purpose of the amendment is to relate the piracy bill to progress on the general copyright bill.

The House subcommittee is best qualified to estimate how much time will be required in that body to process any revision bill that may be passed by the Senate. If it is the opinion of the other body that a revision bill cannot be processed through both Houses prior to 1973, then it would appear appropriate to amend this resolution to provide for a temporary extension until December 31, 1973.