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Citation: 2 William H. Manz Federal Copyright Law The Histories of the Major Enactments of the 105th S6048 1999

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Today's action by the Budget Committee is an important step in the process which is why I would have voted to report the measure to the full Senate. This does not mean that the package is one I will support when it reaches the floor. I am simply acting to move us closer to achieving a balanced budget.

I am disappointed that this legislation does violate the agreement that we worked so hard to achieve. But, I am hopeful that significant improvements will be made on the floor and that we can sent to the President a bill that he can sign.•

COPYRIGHT TERM EXTENSION ACT OF 1997

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today, I rise to express my support for the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1997. This legislation enjoyed unanimous support from members of the Judiciary Committee and I am hopeful the full Senate will share our views.

In the area of copyrights, patents, and other sources of intellectual property, our Nation is now at a tremendous competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace. Despite the fact the United States is the worldwide leader in intellectual property production, American authors, musicians, filmmakers, and other creative artists will not get their fair share of royalties due to them. Simply stated, U.S. copyright law protects the life of the author plus 50 years. In the European Union [EU], however, copyright terms cover life plus 70 years. Here lies the problem.

Four years ago the European Union issued a directive mandating member countries to implement a copyright term of protection equal to the life of the author plus 70 years by July 1, 1995. Currently eight countries in the EU have complied with this policy and many others are following suit.

With the advent of the Internet, digital communications, increased satellite technology, and other communications devices, the longevity of creative works has dramatically increased. Now anyone in the world can access and use an American work with merely a click of a finger. Because of these high-technology machines, the United States continues to see dramatic rises in illegal duplication cases and millions of dollars lost.

The Copyright Term Extension Act will reverse this disturbing trend by putting Americans at an equal footing with the rest of the world. This important legislation gives U.S. copyright owners parity with the European Union by adopting a life plus 70 year term. I strongly feel this act will help balance the inadequacies that currently exist between the United States and the European Union.•

AMENDING SECTION 2118 OF THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 82, H.R. 363.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 363) to amend section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to extend the electric and magnetic fields research and public information dissemination program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 363) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORITY FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REPORT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until the hour of 12 o'clock midnight tonight for the Finance Committee to file an original bill and written report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I believe we are waiting for clearance from the minority, so I am sure in a moment or two we can conclude the session of the Senate today, and I will proceed to act as acting leader in concluding the closing requests.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, June 23d. Further, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests for the morning hour be granted and the Senate then be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes with the following exceptions: Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, 60 minutes, from the hour of 10 to 11 o'clock; Senator THOMAS, or his designee, 60 minutes, from the hour of 11 to 12 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I further ask unanimous consent that at the hour of 12 noon, the Senate proceed to consideration of S. 947, the budget reconciliation bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MURKOWSKI. For the information of all Senators, Monday the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 12 noon. By previous consent, at 12 o'clock the Senate will begin consideration of S. 947, the budget reconciliation bill. As previously announced, all votes ordered with respect to that bill on Monday will be stacked to occur on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. Therefore, rollcall votes will occur beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday or very close thereafter, as the majority leader announced Thursday evening.

There is a lot of work to be done prior to the Senate adjourning for the Fourth of July recess. Therefore, Senators' cooperation in scheduling of floor action would be appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M., MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:32 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 23, 1997, at 10 a.m.

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Document No. 46

HeinOnline -- 2 William H. Manz, Federal Copyright Law: The Legislative Histories of the Major Enactments of the 105th Congress [i] 1999