BILL S. 646 | 4/30/71 | PAGE(S) S 5985-

ACTION: Remarks by Mr. Scott.

COPYRIGHTS OF SOUND RECORDINGS

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I am gratified that the Senate has taken favorable action on S. 646, which would vest in record companies a copyright in sound recordings which they produce.

The need for this legislation is compelling—the recording industry, artists, musicians, performers, and record distributors are all facing a massive economic challenge from record pirates. Record pirates take "hit" records and, without permission or authorization, duplicate them and put them on the market at depressed prices. Record piracy is a rapidly increasing phenomenon—from $30 million in business in 1968 to an estimated $100 million in business in 1970. It is estimated that one out of every four tapes produced is a pirated tape. The recording industry should be protected against such unjustified thievery of their production.

I believe that the granting of a copyright to record companies is the most appropriate and prompt method of meeting the problem of record piracy. This is a matter that has been before Congress for many years. The experts all concur that there is no serious doubt that the act of creating a record is an act of "authorship" which qualifies a record for copyright protection. The House of Representatives recognized that principle in 1967 when it passed the general copyright revision bill. The Senate Copyright Subcommittee, the full Senate Judiciary Committee, and now the full Senate have recognized this same principle. The Copyright Office, the objective expert in this field, recognizes that producing a record is a creative act which is entitled to copyright protection.

I urge early action by the House of Representatives on this needed legislation.