BILL S. 646 | DATE 2/8/71 | PAGE(S) S 963

ACTION:
Introduced by Mr. McClellan

S. 646—INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROTECT AGAINST PIRACY OF SOUND RECORDINGS

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights, I introduce, for appropriate reference, on behalf of myself and Mr. SCOTT, a bill to amend title 17 of the United States Code to provide for the creation of a limited copyright in sound recordings for the purpose of protecting against unauthorized duplication and piracy of sound recordings, and for other purposes.

The bill which I am introducing today is identical to S. 4592 which I introduced on December 18, 1970. Information supplied to the Copyrights Subcommittee indicates a rapid increase in the unauthorized duplication and piracy of sound recordings. It has been estimated that as many as 18,000 illegal tapes are being produced each day depriving the record industry, its distributors and performing artists of an estimated $100 million annually in tape sales.

The Committee on the Judiciary has been advised that the Library of Congress and the Copyright Office are "fully and unqualifiedly in favor of the purpose the bill is intended to fulfill." The report of the Librarian of Congress on the predecessor bill states in part:

> The recent and very large increase in unauthorized duplication of commercial records has become a matter of public concern in this country and abroad. With the growing availability and use of inexpensive cassette and cartridge tape players, this trend seems certain to continue unless effective legal means of combatting it can be found. Neither the present Federal Copyright Statute nor the comomn law or statutes of the various states are adequate for this purpose.

The Library of Congress and the Copyright Office have indicated that "the national and international problem of record piracy is too urgent to await comprehensive action on copyright law revision." The substance of the bill I am introducing has already been approved by the Copyrights Subcommittee as part of the legislation for general revision of the copyright law.

Anyone having comments on this subject, or proposed amendments, should now submit them to the subcommittee.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

The bill (S. 646) to amend title 17 of the United States Code to provide for the creation of a limited copyright in sound recordings for the purpose of protecting against unauthorized duplication and piracy of sound recording, and for other purposes, introduced by Mr. McCLELLAN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT), was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.