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THE COPYRIGHT ROYALTY TRIBUNAL BILL

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1985

● Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the 1976 coyright law revision created the Copyright Royalty Tribunal [CRT] as an independent agency to establish royalty rates. The legislative history suggested that the Tribunal consist of persons who had demonstrated professional competency in the field of copyright policy.

On paper it looked great. In practice, the CRT has been a dumping ground for political appointees who have little or no experience in the field of copyright policy.

Among the recent Commissioners with negligible copyright experience, the Marianne Mele Hall, self-proclaimed coauthor of "Foundations of Sand," a book insulting to blacks and Rose Marie Monk, former aide to Lyn Nofziger when he was the President's assistant for political affairs.

What's worse is that the taxpayers pay the CRT's annual budget of $750,000. Each Commissioner receives $70,000 to meet several times a year. We are paying for a joke.

I am introducing a bill today with Congressman MIKE SYNAR to abolish the CRT, freeze the current royalty rates until January 1, 1989, and have the Copyright Office distribute the royalties to copyright holder. The bill would give Congress time to come up with a better process for deciding royalty rates.

The issue here is good government. I hope my colleagues join us.●