

Announcement

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559

PRESIDENT SIGNS COPYRIGHT REVISION BILL

On October 19, 1976, the President signed S. 22, the bill for general revision of the copyright law. This marks the first major revision of the laws governing intellectual property in this country since 1909.

The signing of the bill culminates a program begun in 1955 with the production, under the supervision of the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress, of a series of thirty-five extensive studies of major copyright issues.

With certain exceptions, the new law will take effect on January 1, 1978.

The bill contains substantial revisions of the principles now governing acquisition and duration of copyright, and deals with issues which have been raised in recent years concerning the use of copyrighted works by public broadcasting and cable television systems.

Further information on the bill will be forthcoming in announcements from the Copyright Office.