



ANNOUNCEMENT

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

THE PIRACY AND COUNTERFEITING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1982

On Tuesday, May 24, 1982, President Reagan signed a bill which sharply increases criminal penalties for persons convicted of pirating and counterfeiting records, tapes, and films. Titled "The Piracy and Counterfeiting Amendments Act of 1982," P.L. 97-180 will generally increase the maximum fines and imprisonment terms from \$25,000 and 2 years to \$250,000 and 5 years. Additionally, first-time offenders could be subject to the maximum penalty.

According to the Senate Judiciary Committee, piracy and counterfeiting of audio and audiovisual products have grown rapidly in recent years, resulting in

a significant loss to the film and recording industries. Noting that the existing penalties have been apparently regarded as an "insignificant cost of doing business" by the criminals involved in these activities, the Committee expressed its belief that the new law, which amends titles 17 and 18 of the United States Code, will bring the "penalties for record and film piracy and counterfeiting into line with the enormous profits which are being reaped from such activities."

(Sections amended by the Piracy and Counterfeiting Amendments include sections 2318 and 2319 of title 18, United States Code, and section 506 (a) of title 17, United States Code.)