

I must express my gravest concern over the proposal to extend retrospectively the period of copyright on sound recordings to 95 years. This is going to make it far more difficult for historians studying the early years of the twentieth century to gain access to relevant source material, since the 78 rpm records and hill and dale disks are very fragile, and most of them, because of their low technical quality, have no commercial value.

It is especially the spoken word and comic songs which express the mores and feelings of the time that are of value now, and will remain of value in the future, and since art inspires art, who knows what exciting new departures could be lost.

Eric Smith