

Dear Sir:

I write for our international membership when I protest the extension of mechanical copyright protection of recorded material to a period of 95 years. Historians, archivists, lecturers and authors have need of accessing this material. If the companies who claim copyright had published or reissued this recorded material so as to make it available, then the debate might be moot. But in thousands of cases they have not, thus depriving both professionals and the public of their heritage. These materials--voices, scripts, lyrics and music--were not the creation of the recording companies, they are the creations of the artists who wrote and performed them. The performances are our heritage. Allowing companies to deny the public access to the work by destroying the material or failing to preserve and reissue it seems to us the act of philistines and nearly criminal.

Respectfully,

Frank Cullen

American Vaudeville Museum