

Copyright Laws

As a collector of music of the 1920's, 1930's & 1940's, since World War II, I am very grateful to those labels who have seen fit to issue material which the major labels have no interest in because of the very limited demand. Many of these labels are pressing in quantities as small as 300 in quantity and even at these quantities can take a year or more to sell.

Those evaluating any law change should consider the law regarding patents. While I am not a patent expert, it is the general understanding that a Patent have a 17 year life after which it becomes available.

Clearly, if patents of some of the worlds, most valuable products can expire after 17 years certainly recordings should not be given a greater time period. In addition, since international copyright laws vary, there is nothing to prevent those in other countries from issuing such material which puts a burden on our collectors to purchase from other countries.

Without the dedication of many collectors and not for profit dedicated producers, much of the historic music of our past would be lost forever,

I urge the committee to consider "REASONABLE" copyright laws in the range of 20 to 25 years maximum.

Sincerely,

Bill Hebden