

Congress Overrode Veto of Manufacturing Clause, But It Expired Four Years Later

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On July 8, 1982, President Reagan exercised the first veto of his presidency when he refused to sign legislation (H.R. 6198) extending the manufacturing clause. Included in the 1976 Copyright Act, the manufacturing clause was a protectionist measure that was designed originally to help the American printing industry. But citing the strength of that industry, “one of the most modern and efficient in the world,” and the Administration’s desire to strengthen free trade and to “remove artificial foreign barriers to American exports,” Reagan vetoed the extension.

The earliest version of the manufacturing clause appeared in the Chace Act of 1891. To protect the American bookprinting industry and to gain the support of printers for extending U.S. copyright to foreign authors, the manufacturing clause was inserted into the law. It denied U.S. copyright protection to American authors whose books were printed outside the United States and then imported into the country. Modified several times, when it appeared in the 1976 Copyright Act, it banned the importation of copyrighted works of “preponderantly nondramatic literary material in the English language” by American authors unless the works were printed in the U.S. or Canada.

Although Congress overrode Reagan’s veto, thus passing a four-year extension of the manufacturing clause, support for this form of protectionism waned in the ensuing four years. When the issue arose again in Congress in 1986, unemployment was down, the economy was strong, and concerns about protection for U.S. works abroad and retaliation from trading partners were growing. On July 1, 1986, the manufacturing clause expired.

The impact on the Copyright Office of the manufacturing clause’s demise was minimal. The Examining Division no longer examined space 7 on Form TX relating to the details of manufacture; the Public Information Office no longer answered questions relating to the clause; and the Import Statement (Form IS), which required a fee of \$3, fell into disuse. ©

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data is recorded onto a layer of dye rather than etched into the surface of the disc. The durability of the CD-R format is in question.

The section is seeing an increase in the number of songs that are only available online. “A current issue is the definition of ‘unit of publication’ in the digital world,” said Section Head Fischer. “Where a claim is submitted for a number of songs made available on a particular day by an online music provider, it is unclear whether all those songs constitute a single unit of publication that may be registered with a single application.” ©

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Class C and copyright registration applications in the graphic arts classes, they also examined two boxes of Class D applications and deposits, where they found more than fifty items of interest, mainly early vaudeville skits.

In addition to the Copyright Office, those divisions of the Library that are hosting Junior Fellows include Geography and Map; Manuscript; Motion Pictures, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound; Music, Prints and Photographs; Rare Book and Special Collections; and Special Materials Cataloging.

Senior Information Specialist **Frank Evina**, who was instrumental in initiating the successful 2005 Junior Fellows intern program, is again serving as project manager for the 2006 program. The program is made possible through the generosity of the late Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, a founding member of the Madison Council. ©

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