

interest but without limiting this subject matter, is the protection of computer programs and the protection of semiconductor chips technology both of which have been considered to fall under the rubric of copyright.

(a) Protection of Computer Programs

Computer programs in readable form are protected under the current Copyright Act. The protection of programs which are in machine readable form is less clear. Again the Copyright White Paper has discussed this issue and recommended that computer programs in readable form continue to enjoy full copyright protection with programs in machine readable form being subject to protection for five years from date of creation. This matter is being considered by the Parliamentary Committee which has not issued its report.

It would probably be desirable to consider this on a multilateral basis in order to harmonize our law with a number of countries.

(b) Semi Conductor Chip Protection

The United States has passed the "Semiconductor Chip Protection Act 1984." This Act provides that the Secretary