

In the inquiry by the congressional library committee on the newspaper limited copyright bill the question was raised whether Congress can grant copyright to owners of matter other than the authors. If the copyright were granted without filing of papers it could be presumed to be for the author. But in fact when the law was read it was found to give the right to proprietors, and the librarian remarked that about two-thirds of the copyrights issued are to proprietors. Here is another knot for strick constructionists. The United States constitution says: "Congress shall have power * * * to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." Congress has not presumed that an inventor or author wants to keep his discovery to himself or to manufacture tools or books. It grants protection in such a way as to enable him by a sale to realize profit from his discovery or work. By a reasonable construction the author's or inventor's assignee receives such protection, as original ownership is held to include the right of transfer.