by the communications subcommittee—would have to be addressed by separate hearings in the copyright subcommittee. Until that happens, what body is that thought to be very doubtful this late in the year.

At week's hearing, Communications Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, asked Ralph Oman, the Register of Copyrights, if he could address his knowledge and concerns on copyright matters, "Are our composers left out in this [Digital Compact] development?"

"Left high and dry," replied Oman. The Register, as he has done earlier, asked the senators for a more comprehensive statement of the issue and referred it to the larger problem of the new technology and copying, but said he would give "support with a sense of regret and discomfort.

When members questioned Oman's tepid support, he said he would characterize it as an "interim solution" that would make the Digital Compact technology available to U.S. consumers pending further congressional action.

The bill, as it is being called, can both record and play digital as well as analog tapes (Billboard, June 16). It has not been mentioned in earlier discussions of the record industry and the hardware manufacturers, and is not covered in the scope of the act, "a major agreement" that is not addressed by the pending legislation, which deals only with DAT machines.

Speaking for the Copyright Coalition, National Music Publishers Assn. president Ed Murphy called S. 2598 "a bad bill." He also called for full coalition participation in future talks with manufacturers concerning DAT and DCC copying concerns and testified that he was concerned about the "Copyright" by Congress "should be delayed until such talks are concluded.

(Earlier in the week, the Recording Industry Assn. of America agreed that the songwriter/music publisher coalition should take part in proposed talks concerning the new DCC format, which is still in the development stage.

Murphy made no bones about coalition plans to pursue all available legal avenues to block the arrival of consumer DAT products, whether or not the bill should pass.

He also replied to a comment by bill sponsor Sen. Strom Thurmond, D- S.C., that "this is the machine, you know," by saying that "under the law, we feel we can file a complaint.

Murphy also revealed that the coalition had sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown urging him to invite U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills asking them to do "everything in their power" to stop the DAT machines from being sold in the U.S.

U.S. IS "OUT OF STEP"

Sen. Strom Thurmond, D-S.C., who said throughout the hearing he would not support the pending bill, asked Register of Copyrights Oman if there was a "trend toward protecting songwriters" in the copyright agreements in other countries.

"Yes, senator, this is the trend, and in this regard, the U.S. is out of step with the rest of the world," he replied.

Oman also said that the bill "would enable the music publisher to sell right to sell equipment that permits unlimited copying of a CD or a prerecorded DAT" and would have "far-reaching implications.""