## Maurice Fitzgerald

- 1) An institution needs to be set up in the Irish Republic to register all Copyright material: Music, literature, films, plays, etc, like many other countries. The protection given by this county for newly created works is poor and takes a lot of proving, with the massive legal costs entailed. There is no state registration system. This has been the biggest problem of all in settling any dispute that may occur.
- 2) Those who are lobbying for the abolition of Copyright see no propriety interest whatsoever in anybody's creation or work, no matter how much money they have spent creating it. This attitude is surprising and who means that anything published in the state would have no rights attached to it whatsoever. This would lead to a very serious situation and film companies would touch this county. EU law compels this country to recognise Copyright in any case.
- 3) Newspapers are now claiming Copyright over letters sent to newspapers that are printed and also syndicated to other publications, who also claim Copyright. Letter-writers do not enter into any agreement with these publications and do not get rewarded in almost all cases. A remarkable situation has occurred: Newspapers are claiming copyright over readers letters that are signed with the author's name and address, these are then syndicated to other newspapers in the same group of companies and they also claim separately copyright over the letters as well with their own newspaper titles? Legislation needs to prevent any such claims, where no agreement has been entered into with the newspaper or magazine about such a letter, or article, whether edited or in its original form.
- 4) Copyright should mean all rights or any derivation thereof in relation to the work, expressed in any form or method of transmission, whether by electronic or mechanical means, or any means whatsoever and howsoever expressed. This will cover all situations new and old.