

The majority of the Law Lords did not reverse the construction placed upon the 1956 amendment. Rather, they decided that, copyright notwithstanding, car owners have a right to repair their cars without facing monopoly restrictions.

While many would have welcomed a complete reversal of the construction placed upon the 1956 amendment as being clearly contrary to parliamentary intent, the decision will nevertheless affect manufacturers of many standard products. At the time of the Law Lords' decision, the E.E.C. Commission was exerting pressure on Ford to grant licences at low royalty rates for replacement body panels, and it has called for changes in the British legislation. A government White Paper on design copyright is in preparation, and its position is awaited with interest.

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VOL. 7, NO. 2

JUNE, 1986

CANADIAN COMPETITION POLICY RECORD

146 Ruskin Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1Y 4C1
(613) 729-5704

Publisher and Editor: J. William Morrow
Second Class Mail Registration Number 5150
Return Postage Guaranteed

Canadian Competition Policy Record is published quarterly. It reports and analyses developments in the formulation and application of Canadian competition law and policy, along with similar developments abroad which are of interest to Canadians. Readers are invited to submit concise pieces for publication as well as to alert the Editor to matters of interest such as conferences, papers, speeches and submissions. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor.

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