
LETTERS

The *ARSC Journal* encourages signed, typed comment on current issues and matter of general interest to Association members. Letters beyond 250 words may be edited to fit space. Letters can be sent to the editorial office.

To The Editor:

I recently received a copy of the fall 1992 *ARSC Journal* where a project I produced, "Great Speeches Of The Twentieth Century" was reviewed.

I must say that, despite the generally favorable review, I am very annoyed by some mistakes, and I feel the record should be corrected.

The name of the box is "GREAT Speeches of the Twentieth Century," not GreatEST as McKinzie clumsily refers. I had never intended this set to be all the greatest speeches lumped into one box, nor could I with the constraints I was faced with.

This set was meant to be a sampler from which future box sets would emerge. One of the main reasons the Women's Movement was not as well represented was that it was intended to be part of a follow-up box set entitled "Voices Of Protest" which would extensively feature, not only the Women's Movement, but also the Civil Rights Movement and the Anti-War protests, of which the Lindbergh speech was only a small part. Unfortunately, several setbacks have scrapped any further volumes of this series and all that exists is this one.

Additionally, with 73:30 as the total time allotted to me per CD, it was impossible to include complete speeches, despite my strong desire to do so. When I did the initial timing on CD #1 alone, it came to well over 2 hours. I had wanted to include complete speeches, but it was not practical, unless I wanted to put together a 10 or 20 CD set and, seeing that Rhino is a record company, in the marketplace like every other business concern, they could not see justification in putting out a 20 CD set—it wouldn't sell.

I find it insulting to be criticized over what was included and not included in this set for its "Standards of Classical Oratory." Mr. McKinzie clearly has no inclination towards what is commercially viable. One must make choices that may not always be entirely "correct" if it means getting the materials out to a wider audience. I would have hoped he would be overjoyed that a project such as this was even attempted, because clearly no one seems to be bothered putting similar sets together. It took almost a year to assemble and many hundreds of hours of listening and research. And McKinzie must know, or like so many people, assumes it is until it's discovered not to be the case; that many historically important items were never recorded—they exist only on paper. And

when recordings do exist, it's not a simple matter of snapping one's fingers to make them appear. Luckily, I have spent most of my life collecting these materials and have, fortunately, amassed a collection of over 50,000 hours of speeches and historic sound recordings. Every syllable of every speech came from my personal collection, and even though I have been an ARSC member for several years, I received not one shred of help from any member of ARSC, even though I had contacted several in the course of this project, appealing for copies of important tapes.

I believe an apology is in order from McKinzie for his off-base, ill-informed remarks. I have worked very hard trying to bring something entertaining, as well as of educational and historic worth to the public. To have the fruits of my labor damned by this faint praise and nit-picked—not even giving the correct title, is contemptible and shoddy journalism and I am frankly disgusted. *Gordon Skene, Los Angeles, California*

Editor's Note:

Richard McKinzie suffered a heart attack suddenly and died before penning a response to Mr. Skene's criticism. Suffice it to say that Dr. McKinzie leaves a substantial legacy of research and publications in twentieth century American History and U.S. diplomatic relations.

To The Editor:

ARSC *Journal* readers may be interested in the results obtained by one member from the use of *Tergitol* in cleaning vinyl LP records. In his article "The Preservation of Recorded Sound Materials," printed in Volume 23, No. 2, Gilles St. Laurent recommended the use of *Tergitol* 15-S-3 and 15-S-9 surfactants mixed .5 parts each with 100 parts distilled water. I tested this recommendation as follows: small quantities of the mixture were applied to the test LP with an eyedropper and the record was lightly scrubbed in the direction of the grooves using a clean plush pad—in this instance a *LAST* applicator—following which the still wet record was vacuumed using a *Nitty-Gritty* cleaning machine. This wetting and vacuuming procedure was then repeated twice using *distilled water only* to rinse off possible residue. I was able, by this method, to remove accumulated dirt and grease marks, and even the residue from the adherence of clear plastic inner sleeves to the record surface. I discovered, however, that even after two distilled water rinses and vacuuming, the *discs retained a light film residue*. This residue was removed using a 25 percent solution of *Discwasher D-4* in distilled water; the disc was wet and vacuumed dry. The record then played well, and I detected no residue accumulating on the stylus. The long-term effect, if any, on the test disc remains to be observed. I understand from one of my institutional colleagues that further testing of nonionic ethylene oxide condensates surfactants, including other *Tergitol* products, is being carried out. We hope to report the results later.

I have not yet tested *Tergitol* on other than vinyl LPs. Preliminary tests have been carried out using *The Disc Doctor's* (Lagniappe Chemicals Ltd., 1820 La Salle St., St. Louis, MO, 63104) cleaning solution and brushes, again on LPs only. Initial results appeared to be good, although the process is exacting. I need to complete my examination using other record types before commenting in detail. The results obtained and comments from other readers would be welcome. *Elwood McKee, Rockville, MD*