1

 $\mbox{\mbox{$\mbox{$\mbox{$\mbox{$\mbox{$\mbox{$\mbox{$}\mbox{$\mbox{$}\mbox{$\mbox{$}\mbox{$}\mbox{$}\mbox{$\mbox{$}\mbox{$}\mbox{$}\mbox{$}\mbox{$\mbox{$}$ 

If the value of \deadcycles exceeds the value of \maxdeadcycles, TEX assumes that the output routine has gotten into a loop. TEX then complains and runs its own simple output routine, equivalent to \shipout \box255, that is likely to break the loop. Plain TEX sets \maxdeadcycles to 25.