

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2809

To provide for the declassification of the journal kept by Glenn T. Seaborg while serving as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 1997

Mr. STUPAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the declassification of the journal kept by Glenn T. Seaborg while serving as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg is a truly great
6 American who has made indispensable contributions
7 in the development of nuclear energy.

8 (2) Dr. Seaborg is the co-discoverer of pluto-
9 nium and eight other elements, and, as a result of

1 his discoveries on the chemistry of these elements,
2 he was awarded the 1951 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

3 (3) While serving as Chairman of the Atomic
4 Energy Commission, Dr. Seaborg maintained a jour-
5 nal consisting of a diary, correspondence, announce-
6 ments, minutes of meetings, and other documents of
7 historical value.

8 (4) In preparing the journal, Dr. Seaborg took
9 care to include only information which was not clas-
10 sified and could be made public.

11 (5) Before leaving the Commission, Dr. Seaborg
12 submitted the journal to the Commission's Division
13 of Classification for review.

14 (6) Dr. Seaborg's journal was cleared by the
15 Division of Classification, virtually without deletion.

16 (7) Twelve years later, in 1983, the chief histo-
17 rian at the Department of Energy asked to borrow
18 a copy of Dr. Seaborg's journal in order to write a
19 history of the Commission.

20 (8) When the journal was returned to Dr.
21 Seaborg three years later, passage after passage was
22 redacted, including explicitly public information,
23 such as the published code names of nuclear weap-
24 ons tests, and purely personal material, such as his

1 description of accompanying his children on a “trick
2 or treat” outing one Halloween evening.

3 **SEC. 2. DECLASSIFICATION OF SEABORG JOURNAL.**

4 The Secretary of Energy shall return to Dr. Glenn
5 T. Seaborg the journal that Dr. Seaborg prepared while
6 serving as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission,
7 in the original, unredacted form in which it was submitted
8 for review to the Commission’s Division of Classification.

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