

More meetings of the National Academy of Sciences will be made open to the public. If meetings are closed, the Academy must provide summaries of closed meetings to the public. The purpose of this provision is to provide a summary of the committee's deliberations, as well as a list of the committee members present and other matters determined by the Academy.

The burden of insuring compliance with this legislation falls on the agencies. Agencies may not use the advice or recommendations provided by the Academy unless the procedural requirements set forth in the legislation have been followed by the Academy.

A letter from the National Academy of Sciences clarifies an important technical issue relating to the use of the section 552(b) exceptions. Pursuant to my earlier unanimous consent request, I am inserting this letter in the record for publication.

I urge my colleagues to adopt these amendments.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,
Washington, DC, November 9, 1997.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WAXMAN: I understand that some concerns have been raised concerning the use of the Section 552(b) exceptions as a basis for closing meetings provided in H.R. 2977.

I wish to assure you that we subscribe fully to the goal of providing as much openness as possible in our work. In particular, we have

no intention of using Section 552(b)(5), which deals with interagency memoranda, as a basis for closing meetings of Academy committees. In fact, it is the Academy's standard practice not to treat the type of material covered by Section 552(b)(5) as confidential input to any Academy deliberative process. This procedure insures that, in as much as possible, all the information that a committee uses to reach its conclusions is in the public records.

Sincerely,

BURCE ALBERTS,
President.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2977.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONSIDERING AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 314 AS ADOPTED WHEN CONSIDERED

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the

House considers House Resolution 314, the amendment that I have placed at the desk be considered as adopted.

□ 0200

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 1, line 5, strike "November 11" and insert in lieu thereof "November 15".

Page 2, after line 13, insert the following:

(4) The bill (S. 1454) to provide a 6-month extension of highway, highway safety and transit programs pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

Page 2, line 14, strike "November 11" and insert in lieu thereof "November 15".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed because of the death of a staff member when the House voted on H.R. 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."