

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 618

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

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 1999

Mr. MOYNIHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

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

7       (2) Dr. Seaborg was the co-discoverer of plutonium  
8       and eight other elements and as a result of these discov-  
9       eries was awarded the 1951 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

1           (3) While serving as Chairman of the Atomic Energy  
2 Commission (AEC), Dr. Seaborg maintained a journal  
3 consisting of a diary, correspondence, announcements,  
4 minutes of meetings, and other documents of historical  
5 value.

6           (4) In preparing the journal, Dr. Seaborg took care  
7 to include only information which was not classified and  
8 could be made public.

9           (5) Before leaving the Atomic Energy Commission,  
10 Dr. Seaborg submitted the journal to the AEC's Division  
11 of Classification for review.

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

14          (7) Twelve years later, in 1983, the chief historian  
15 at the Department of Energy asked to borrow a copy of  
16 Dr. Seaborg's journal in order to write a history of the  
17 AEC.

18          (8) When the journal was returned to Dr. Seaborg  
19 three years later, passage after passage was redacted, in-  
20 cluding explicitly public information, such as the published  
21 code names of nuclear weapons tests, and purely personal  
22 material, such as his description of accompanying his chil-  
23 dren on a "trick or treat" outing one Halloween evening.

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

2       The Secretary of Energy shall surrender Dr. Glenn  
3 T. Seaborg's journal, which he prepared while serving as  
4 Chairman of the AEC, to Dr. Seaborg's estate. The jour-  
5 nal shall be returned in the original, unredacted form in  
6 which it was lent to the Department of Energy in 1983.

○