

HOUSE PANEL BACKS BILL TO END SECRECY

WASHINGTON, March 3 (UPI) — A House committee has approved a bill designed to end Government secrecy except in the most sensitive security cases.

The "Government in the Sunshine Act," was passed 32 to 7 by the House Government Operations Committee yesterday.

It would require that meetings of 47 Government agencies be open to the public except under limited circumstances, transcripts of the meetings be made available and scheduled meetings be publicly announced at least a week in advance.

The committee rejected repeated attempts by Republican members to exempt the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Reserve Board and the Export-Import Bank from the disclosure provisions.

The seven Republican oppo-

nents argued that the bill would destroy the agencies' ability to act with candor and would open business secrets up to competitors.

Representative Jack Brooks, Democrat of Texas, responded that the agencies asking for exemption "just don't want any record of what they do."

"They want to make it impossible for any record to be kept," he said.

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