

voted against it and I am personally very unhappy with it." At that time, Eisner had not even seen a written version of the resolution passed at the meeting, and he said "I shall have to wait for the official version of the resolution to reach me before I decide what action I shall take." Eisner also strongly denied that he had withdrawn his resolution because he was happy with the other one, and said "I believe that I was deliberately misrepresented."

Lehrman also said last week "I am not satisfied with the final resolution. I made a strong statement saying that the committee's resolution was weak and I voted against it." Lehrman said that he believes Handler's motion gained support from those who were relieved that it was not stronger, and from those who believed that it accomplishes what the committee intended.

Asked why he opposes the official version of the motion, Eisner said that apart from the fact that it contains the provisions that Lehrman's amendments sought to remove, it gives the council and not the membership the final decision on whether or not to accept a disputed contract. "To me," he said, "the critical thing about being a member of the academy or any other organization is that you delegate authority to the council for carrying out the members' wishes, but not the responsibility. Responsibility must always remain with individual members."

A more straightforward piece of business was the adoption of an antiwar resolution proposed by Dr Alexander Rich of MIT, which instructs the president of the academy to request that the President and Congress of the United States "evolve foreign policies in which the development and application of science and technology in industry, agriculture and health for the furtherance of human welfare are major elements, and reliance on military force, whether direct or indirect, is de-emphasized". Although Vietnam was not explicitly mentioned in the debate, the implication is clear.

The meeting also went through the formality of turning down a request by William Shockley, Nobel prizewinner for his work on transistors, that the academy conduct a study of the relationship of environment and genetic factors to intelligence. Shockley believes that genetic factors lead to a difference in intelligence between blacks and whites. Shockley's resolution was, however, defeated by a vote of 44 to 24, which is at least an improvement on his past attempts to steer the academy into seeming to support his views—he has been beating the same drum since 1966, but on every previous attempt, his resolutions have been tabled. He said last week that he is encouraged by the vote, and no doubt he will be at it again

in the autumn meeting of the academy.

The other piece of business concluded at the meeting last week was, according to Handler, the most important action taken. The members of the academy gave the council a mandate to press ahead with reorganization of the National Research Council along lines

that should make it more responsive to requests for multidisciplinary studies. "What it really has to do with", Handler said, "is whether or not the academy really intends to be an important element in shaping national policy in the future in the way in which we use science and technology".

Classified Studies

THE following resolution on the policy of the National Academy of Sciences with respect of classified studies was adopted at the Academy's annual meeting last week. The manner in which it was adopted is described in the accompanying article.

Preamble :

The role of the National Academy of Sciences, as an adviser to government, in some instances requires the Academy to concern itself with highly technical questions arising within the area of national defense. In some of the cases the Academy is requested to conduct its project/study on a classified basis. This is objectionable on two grounds. First, classification of the report of a study project runs counter to the tradition of open publication of scientific results. Second, classification of the conduct of the work places a barrier between Academy members and any project which might prove to be objectionable to some number of members, were they more fully informed of the details. The purpose of this resolution is to ameliorate the difficulties and compromises with which the Academy is confronted with respect to classified studies.

It Is Hereby Resolved That :

1. The Council of the Academy, in carrying out the responsibilities for contract approval assigned to it by Section II, paragraph II of the Academy bylaws, shall, to the maximum extent possible, insist that the projects and studies to be undertaken under these contracts shall be conducted on an unclassified basis. Insistence by an agency that a project or study be conducted on a classified basis shall, if a majority of the Council finds that classification is unnecessary, or that the proposed level of classification is excessive, constitute proper grounds for rejecting the contract.
2. Whenever the Council approves a contract providing for a classified project or study, the subject matter thereof shall forthwith be communicated to the Academy members in the following manner:
 - (a) An unclassified title and abstract adequately identifying the scope and intent of the work shall be submitted to the membership prior to the signing of the contract, provided, however, that this procedure need not be followed in cases deemed to be of special urgency by a majority of the Council. This abstract shall include indication of a deadline date for receipt of inquiries from the membership concerning further details of the contemplated project.
 - (b) More detailed information shall be available to any member on request, subject only to classification and proprietary restrictions.
 - (c) The contract shall include provision for issuance of an unclassified summary in addition to a classified report, whenever this is possible.
3. If prior to the deadline date, 10 or more Academy members, representing at least two institutions and two Sections of the Academy, agree that a research project approved by the Council is inappropriate for the Academy, special arrangements shall be made for presentation of their arguments to the Council. If the Council remains unpersuaded and proceeds with the project, as complete an account as possible of this matter shall promptly be submitted to the full Academy membership, for such action as the members deem appropriate.
4. The Council of the Academy shall develop, and inform the membership, a set of specific criteria and guidelines for acceptance of classified contracts by the Academy.