

Senate shelves S. Africa bills until Nov. 12

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Tied in a procedural knot, the Michigan Senate last week shelved two South African investment bills. The bills will be taken up in a second special session starting Nov. 12.

"I don't see that there is any value in postponing something that has been around as long as this issue has," said Sen. Joe Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, in a formal protest.

The time is certainly ripe (for Michigan to join with other states and cities in expressing its state of

alarm over the deteriorating conditions that have been developing in South Africa."

THE SENATE voted 18-17, with three members excused, to delay action until after the general election. Voting yes (for delay) were Republicans Doug Cruce of Troy, R. Robert Genke of Northville and Rudy Nichols of Waterford.

Opposed were Democrats Faxon, William Faust of Westland and Patrick McCollough of Dearborn.

Sen. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, was trying a murder case in Oakland Circuit Court and excused from the session.

Republicans voted 15-3 to delay; Democrats, 14-3 to advance the bill on the calendar.

ONE REPUBLICAN crossover vote was Sen. Harry DeMaso, R-Battle Creek, chairman of the Senate committee, which refined the two

House-passed bills. "They're the best bills in the nation," said DeMaso. "They would kick in over a five-year period."

The bills would prohibit the state employees and public school employees retirement fund (HB 4770) and the legislative retirement fund (HB 4771) from owning securities of corporations doing business in segregated South Africa.

Sponsors of the bills, respectively, are Reps. Virgil Smith, D-Detroit, and Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor. The House has passed them.

A key worry among retirees was whether their pensions would be reduced if investments had to be made in lower-yield securities. DeMaso said that fear had been laid to rest by provisions to reimburse the funds.

DeMASO CRITICIZED Republican gubernatorial nominee William Lucas for failure to make a pitch to the GOP caucus for the divestment

bills. "Lucas never addressed it," DeMaso said. Lucas also was under pressure from 27 Michigan clergy to "enormously influence passage of the legislation."

DeMaso, though chairman of the Senate Economic Development Committee, has had cool relations with fellow Republicans since 1983, when he was the only Republican lawmaker to vote for Gov. James J. Blanchard's income tax increase.

On the South Africa divestment vote, DeMaso was joined by two other Republicans — floor leader Paul Arthurhult of Whitehall and William Soderburg of East Lansing — in voting with Democrats to advance it.

SEN. JOHN F. Kelly, D-Detroit, led the unsuccessful move to take up the bills and poured scorn on those

who voted against it.

"I sometimes am impressed by members of this body who can wax so eloquently on various social programs, subsidy programs for business, or programs dealing with regulatory and governmental structures that are really not as germane as this issue," Kelly said.

"Yet when you come to something that deals with the loss of life and for the repression of democracy in a nation that is under a police state type of rule, you can't get the moral indignation of a handful of people to raise issues that have at least been brought before this body in Senate committees three to four times within the last year."

"We have taken the most moderate, corporatist view that one can conceivably present to a body, and still we fail to even bring this up for discussion," Kelly said.

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Two seminars in Statistical Process Control (SPC) are being offered this fall by Oakland Community College's Business and Professional Institute.

Each seminar will cover 18 instruction hours over three weeks.

SPC I will be held 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Oct. 7-23. SPC I will be a history of SPC, implementation, the world marketplace, the central limit theorem, X-bar and R charts.

SPC II will be held 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Nov. 4-20. It will cover process capability, sampling methods, C-charts, standard deviation, and upper and lower control limits.

Both will be taught on the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Registration and course details are available from the OCC business institute at 540-1534.

GYM AND POOL facilities at the Orchard Ridge Campus of OCC will be open to the public seven days a week this fall and winter. Facilities in the Community Activities Building include an Olympic-size pool, a weight-exercise room, a multi-purpose room and racquetball courts.

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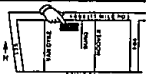
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