

State sends message to Northern Ireland

(AP) — Michigan can use the voting muscle of its \$15 billion pension fund to fight discrimination against Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland under a bill winning final legislative approval in the House.

The measure was approved by the House with a 99-9 vote last week and sent to the governor.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. John Kelly, D-Grosse Pointe Woods, urges U.S. companies with operations in Northern Ireland to live up to a set of anti-discrimination guidelines known as the "MacBride Principles" by using the voting power of its pension-fund stocks.

The unemployment rate among Roman Catholics in that country is 2 1/2 times higher than that of majority Protestants.

THE BILL had strong suburban support.

All Wayne County area lawmakers supported it, including Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, Justine Barnes, D-Westland, John Bennett, D-Redford, William Keith, D-Garden City, James Kosteva, D-Canton, and Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

Oakland lawmakers supporting it were Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, W.V. Brotherton, R-Farmington, Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, David Hozglama, R-West Bloomfield, and Wilfred Webb, D-Hazel Park.

Opposed were Judith Miller, R-Birmingham, and Gordon Sparks, R-Troy.

BLAIR J. McGowan, Michigan president of the Irish American Unity Conference, said employers can easily determine the religion of a job applicant by asking which schools they attended. People of differing religions tend to live in the same regions and school districts.

"This is not a divestiture bill. This is not a bill which would mean the state of Michigan would incur any financial losses," Kelly said.

"The bottom line is human rights. This is an equal employment bill, not a divestiture bill as some have attempted to infer," said John McInerney, national director for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America Inc.

REP. DONALD Van Singel, R-Grant, said he questioned the MacBride Principles because many Catholics living in Northern Ireland don't approve of them.

"The hassle that these principles will cause to U.S. companies will force them to look elsewhere where similar attractive investment package incentives are on offer," said John Cusnahan, a representative of the Northern Ireland economic development department.

"In order to fully ensure that discrimination is not only ended, but remedied, we need new investments and jobs."

Opponents say no companies have made new investments in Northern Ireland since the MacBride campaign began.

"I think factions of people shooting at each other and that being shown on television has more to do with it," said Rep. Michael Bennane, D-Detroit, a major proponent of the bill.

Anti-drug program seeks name for lion

An anti-drug abuse program is inviting elementary school children in Michigan to suggest names for its official mascot by offering chances at prizes.

The Courage Drug Prevention and Education Program's "Name the Lion" contest is open to all children in kindergarten through grade 6.

The contest's goal is to name the Courage mascot, which is a lion at the Detroit Zoo. The lion's cartoon image illustrates the program's guidebook for children and their families.

It also will generate participation in the Courage program itself.

Kids think of the best name for the mascot they can imagine, then write it on a postcard, along with their own name, age, address, telephone number and the name of the school they attend.

Entries are mailed to the Courage Lion Contest, 24359 Northwestern Highway, Southfield 48075.

Only one name for the lion may be

entered per postcard, but kids can enter as many times as they wish.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Yvonne Blackmond said entries must be received no later than March 31, 1989. The first 2,500 entrants will receive a one-day pass to the zoo. A first prize of \$500 in cash and a \$500 savings bond will be awarded in April 1989, along with 20 runnerup prizes of season zoo passes.

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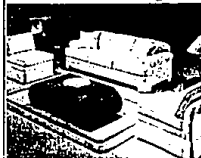
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