

April 7, 1994

LB 1066

Transport and General Workers Union, which is the largest trade union in Northern Ireland, has publicly declared its opposition to the MacBride Principles. But you stand there and endorse them.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator. Senator Withem, your light is next. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: The Congressional Friends of Ireland, which counts Senator Ted Kennedy and Daniel Moynihan as members, has also privately expressed opposition to the MacBride Principles. I've given you reason after reason why we don't need the MacBride Principles. Yet, this body refuses to accept those facts, for some reason. I've told you whose money we're fooling with. I've told you why I'm going through this ex...exercise of...we'll call it a filibuster if you want to. It's because I was told out in the hallway, keep your mouth shut, don't rock the boat, I'm going to withdraw the amendment. You heard this. It was said on the floor. The person who said this said, I said it, but, he added, if there's a filibuster and much time spent. He didn't tell me that in the hall. He said there will be enough time spent, I will withdraw the amendment, don't rock the boat, don't make people mad, so I said nothing. Now, this has all been in the record, stated publicly. I can't help it. I was naive enough to say, I believe you. I'll do what you say because I firmly believe we have no business, none whatsoever, with the MacBride Principles or the investments in South Africa, especially when we're dealing with somebody else's money, the School Retirement Fund, the State Patrol Retirement Fund, the Judges Retirement Fund, the Permanent School Fund, and the Veterans Aid Fund. Now, if those folks knew that we're going to squander their money in South Africa where they're going to have a war, they'd be in here telling us about it. They'd be demonstrating out in the street, but they don't know that. They don't know that. I have some more floor debate in my hands and this floor debate says the bill, in political terms, is called MacBride Principles. It is an investment piece of legislation that would be adopted to Senator Chamber's repeal of the South African sanctions. What it does is, it says that for purposes of investment in companies that are in Northern Ireland that the investment officer will...of the state, will look at those corporations doing business in Northern Ireland. It says that they will invest in corporate stocks or obligations in a manner to encourage corporations that in state investment officer determine pursue a policy of affirmative action. So, we're