

April 7, 1994

LB 1066

reconsider.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The motion to reconsider passes. Now we are on the Hall amendment to LB 1066. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I have my light but I want to...I guess I'll take an opportunity to speak now because I don't want it to come and go and fail to have a chance to talk about this. In the event the reconsideration is successful, and I think the vote that was just taken...taken has indicated that that's a possibility, I want to appeal to Senator Chambers to leave 1066 on Select File and advance it. This is an important issue and Senator Chambers came to the Banking Committee and made an impassioned statement about the history of divestment and used the bill as a chance to exact some promises and those promises were forthcoming, and then said this was an opportunity for some healing. The fact that the...the blood and discrimination and wrong occurs in North Ireland, as it does demonstrably and beyond question occurs, should not be used, I think, to coerce the body to either support or not support the MacBride Principles at the stake of risking the chance to recognize the healing in LB 1066. I think we have to be allowed, should consider the prospect of recognizing those issues one at a time and I think when the divestment has run its course and Senator Chambers brought to the body this idea and the body has endorsed his decade-long labors and the request of many representatives of black people in South Africa as to the prospect of a new dawning, that we should go forward with 1066 without regard to the legitimate case that can be made on behalf of the MacBride Principles. There are a number, perhaps an endless list of wrongs around the globe. The fact that we have a chance to do something good about one of them shouldn't be precluded because we failed to do something good about another one. LB 1066 is the right bill at the right time and needs to be acted on this year without regard to what happens on the MacBride Principles. Reconsider them, if you will, adopt them, if you will, there's a legitimate case to be made for them, I'm sure, in the time that I've been gone it was made. I certainly saw it in the public hearing. On the other hand, if you wish to reconsider it, that's all right, but at the heart of 1066 is something that the Legislature needs to do this year and I prevail upon my colleague, Senator Chambers, who has led that fight for so long that he should be charge of the healing as he promised the committee and this body in carrying forward this question. This body's ready to follow and endorse his line of argument that he