LEGISLATIVE RECORD
OF THE
One Hundred And Sixteenth Legislature
OF THE
State Of Maine

VOLUME II

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
House of Representatives
May 17, 1993 to July 14, 1993
COMMISSIONS

The following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

June 17, 1993

To The Honorable Members of the 116th Legislature:

I am returning, without my signature or approval, H.P. 931, L.D. 1254, "AN ACT to Amend the State Finance Law in Relation to Purchases from Corporations Conducting Business in Northern Ireland." This legislation, in my judgment, inappropriately involves the State of Maine in areas of foreign policy.

The merits of the MacBride campaign and its goal of reducing religious discrimination in Northern Ireland are not at issue in my decision to veto this legislation. Rather, there is a broader policy issue that directly affects the proper role of state government within the confines of federalism. This legislation illustrates the flaws inherent in linking decisions for expending state funds with campaigns to influence religious, ethnic, racial or other conflicts within other countries.

Discrimination within the businesses of Northern Ireland is illegal; however its inevitability is the product of a complex, centuries-old conflict. Corporations doing business there can address injustices by strictly enforcing the host country's anti-discrimination laws within the boundaries of the work place.

Purchasing decisions by the Maine State Division of Purchases are based primarily on obtaining the best products and services for the lowest cost. Allowing challenges to purchase awards based on perceived non-adherence to broadly written and non-legally binding principles could complicate the purchasing process and create an uneven competitive playing field between U.S. and foreign companies.

In conclusion, I believe that the enactment of L.D. 1254 would create a new and ill-advised precedent: the manipulation of the state purchasing process in an effort to influence internal conflicts of other nations. I remain unconvinced that establishing such a precedent is wise public policy.

Because of these reservations, I am in opposition to L.D. 1254 and respectfully urge you to sustain my veto.

Sincerely,

S/John R. McKernan, Jr.
Governor

Was read and ordered placed on file.

The accompanying Bill "An Act to Amend the State Finance Law in Relation to Purchases from Corporations Conducting Business in Northern Ireland" (H.P. 931) (L.D. 1254).

On motion of Representative Gwadosky of Fairfield, tabled pending further consideration and later today assigned.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative HICHBORN of Howland, the following Order:

ORDERED, that Representative Virginia Constantine of Bar Harbor be excused June 14 and 15 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative John Jalbert of Lisbon be excused May 28 and June 1 to 4 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Marge L. Kilkelly of Wiscasset be excused June 9 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Peggy A. Pendleton of Scarborough be excused June 7 to 9 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Thomas E. Poulin of Oakland be excused June 7 to 9 for personal reasons.

Was read and passed.

The following item appearing on Supplement No. 1 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Divided Report


Signed:

Senators:
TITCOMB of Cumberland
PEARSON of Penobscot

Representatives:
HICHBORN of Howland
CARROLL of Gray
MICHAUD of East Millinocket
KERR of Old Orchard Beach
CHONKO of Topsham
POULTON of Lewiston
RYDELL of Brunswick

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting