

Parochial Goes to State Senate

BY JOHN ELMER

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 12—The controversial issue of state aid to private and parochial schools reached the Senate floor for the first time today when the Senate Appropriations committee approved the plan, 10 to 6.

The package of bills, calling for \$30 million in state assistance for fiscal 1972, were heard and voted upon despite objections from Republicans, who charged that the action violated Senate rules.

G. O. P. leaders objected to today's hearing because the bills had not been posted for six days, a Senate requirement, and no attempt had been made to waive that rule.

All Democratic committee members voted for the plan, except for Sen. Terry Bruce of Olney, who voted present, and Sen. Richard Newhouse of Chicago, a known opponent, who was absent. The only Republican who favored the proposal was Sen. Edward McBroom of Kankakee.

First Senate Action

The action marked the first time the issue has reached the Senate floor for a vote. In previous sessions, it has passed the House only to be killed in the Senate Education Committee.

Last week, both House and Senate Education Committees approved the proposal after more than five hours of testi-

mony from proponents and opponents.

Today, Robert Beckwith of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce told Appropriations Committee members that the nonpublic school aid plan could cost the state \$200 million in tax money by 1977 if Illinois approved the measures and increased aid levels each year at the same rate as has Ohio.

Representatives of the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois Parent Teachers Association also appeared to oppose the plan.

Explaining his vote, Sen. Daniel Dougherty [D., Chicago] asserted that he had been opposed to the idea, but was persuaded to change his mind because of a recent rash of closings by private and parochial schools.

Provisions of Plan

The plan, recommended by a special legislative commission and backed by Gov. Olgivie, calls for:

1. State grants of up to \$60 for each child in a nonpublic elementary school and up to \$90 for each high school student out of a total appropriation of \$20.5 million.
2. A \$4.5 million outlay for state grants equal to the public school aid level for low income families who want to send children to nonpublic schools.
3. A \$5 million educational development fund for cooperative programs between private and public schools.