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## Fair Housing Pushed With Millions At Stake

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - (NPI)--Republican and Democratic leaders vied to be the first to promote open housing measures, as the fate of a proposed atom smasher in Weston hung perilously in the balance.

Illinois is one of the few Northern states without a fair housing law. But that situation was likely to be changed soon as two Republican open-occupancy measures were rammed through House committees.

At the same time, State Treasurer Adlai E. Stevenson III, a Democrat, and son of the late U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, declared that his office's policy would be to use state funds as a lever for encouraging open occupancy.

THE OPEN housing bills were the first two measures on the matter this session to be delivered to the floor of either Illinois chamber for consideration.

Earlier, House Speaker Ralph T. Smith had introduced a bill for a step-by-step approach to open occupancy.

The Republican representative's measure would prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of property, assigning enforcement to state's attorneys at the local level.

At first, the bill would apply to all but sixflat buildings, but after six years, it would affect all but two-flat buildings.

The bill was attacked by Sen. Cecil A. Partee (D.-Chicago) for forever exempting owner-occupied housing.

One of the Republican-sponsored open housing bills, introduced by Rep. Noble W. Lee of Chicago, shot through the House Judiciary committee in the sale or rental of housing. The other bill, by Rep. Lewis V. Morgan, Jr., of Wheaton, the state Atomic Energy commission chairman, was approved by the House Public Welfare committee after 10 minutes' deliberation.

IMPETUS FOR the flurry of action by state leaders was the possible loss of a \$375 million atom smasher in Weston, a Chicago suburb. AEC officials and Congressmen have warned that Illinois may lose the nuclear accelerator

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unless it upholds fair housing for Negro employees at the proposed smasher and others.

Stevenson said state funds would not be deposited in banks and other institutions "which discriminate on account of race or religion in either their employment or their services, including the making of loans."

On a more positive note, he said he would "encourage financial institutions to actively serve the needs of their respective communities without regard to race or religion by giving them the means with which to do so--additional deposits of state funds."

Stevenson, who controls the investment of some \$500 million in Illinois funds, said Illinois money has already been deposited in two banks and three savings and loan associations in Negro areas of Chicago's Southside.