

Latta Corkwell Bill to Control OHSAA Goes to Legislature

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Battle lines are being drawn in the state legislature on a bill presented this week by County Representative Harry Corkwell, Ottawa, and State Senator Delbert Latta, McComb, which would bring to an end the monopolistic practices of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Identical bills have been prepared by the two legislators and Rep. Corkwell told a Sentinel representative that it was his intention to present it as soon as possible after the house convened Tuesday.

Corkwell had three bills to present at this session and the athletic bill was the third on his list.

THE BILL is substantially an outgrowth of the Harold Miller eligibility case which caused Findlay High School to be suspended from basketball competition this year. Corkwell said it is his interest that no such discriminatory action be taken in the future.

In the bill Corkwell wants it to be made unlawful for any organization to punish any school or student body of a school for the actions of a single individual. He wants the blame and penalty leveled against the guilty individual.

In the Findlay case the high school was suspended because the Miller youth's

father took the case to court. H. W. Emswiler is reported to have stated that Findlay drew the suspension principally because it reached the courts.

GOVERNOR FRANK J. LAUSCHE, when he heard of Emswiler's statement, became enraged because the boy's father was denied the use of the courts to gain his rights or clarify a law. He is reported as strongly in favor of the Latta-Corkwell bill.

Emswiler claims that the OHSAA is a voluntary organization and no school is obliged to belong to it. However, for a school athletic team to play an OHSAA member or participate in tournaments, it must belong to the organization. Therefore, Corkwell wants the OHSAA treated as an involuntary organization.

Mach Pemberton, President of the Ohio High School Football Coaches' Association and Paul Walker, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches' Association, have denounced the bill. They have stated that they would do their utmost to line up support in the legislature against it.