

1 GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning and welcome to Las  
2 Vegas, Madam Chairman and Commissioners and staff. I'd like to  
3 offer for the record a video tape we had prepared that talks a  
4 little of the history of Las Vegas for you to view at your  
5 leisure. For those of you that are visiting here for the first  
6 time I'm guessing it's probably not exactly what you might have  
7 expected. Although Las Vegas is one of the world's premier  
8 resort locations and attracts millions of visitors from around  
9 the globe, Las Vegas is much more than a tourist mecca.

10 It is first and foremost a community, a community  
11 partly founded on the gaming industry, but one with roots that  
12 go much deeper than you might imagine. For example, just north  
13 of the Las Vegas Strip you'll find what is considered to be  
14 Nevada's oldest building, the historic Mormon fort. The fort  
15 was constructed in 1855 by Mormon missionaries who left the  
16 Great Salt Lake and settled in Las Vegas, finding here a haven  
17 where they escaped discrimination from their religious beliefs.

18 Incidentally, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter  
19 Day Saints currently has more than 70,000 members in Southern  
20 Nevada making it our second largest religious denomination. And  
21 a few miles from here you'll find Las Vegas High School, one of  
22 the nations few Mayan revival art deco structures and just a  
23 short drive from Las Vegas is the man-made wonder of Hoover Dam,  
24 which helped Las Vegas realize economic success in the 1930's.

25 My family and I have spent most of our lives in this  
26 community and during the past 10 years, I've had the privilege

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1 of being governor of Nevada. During that time, I've seen some  
2 remarkable changes to Las Vegas. I've seen pyramids resurrected  
3 and a mirage become a reality. I've watched Lady Liberty spring  
4 from the asphalt and castles reach to the sky. As one national  
5 publication described Las Vegas, they indicated if you asked  
6 directions to Paris, you'll be instructed to begin at the  
7 Pyramids of Egypt, make a quick stop in downtown Manhattan,  
8 stroll past the Mediterranean and take a right at ancient Greece  
9 and if you get to the battle of British warships and pirates,  
10 you've gone too far, turn back.

11 (Laughter)

12 In other words, Las Vegas captivates visitors with  
13 the atmosphere of many countries and locations than our own. It  
14 provides unique entertainment for adults, their children, and  
15 their grandchildren, and experiences that surpass anything else  
16 in the world. We also pride ourselves on offering new  
17 activities on practically every visit. The Bellagio, which the  
18 chairman visited yesterday, recreates the ambience of Northern  
19 Italy and it opened just last month. Four more major resorts,  
20 each with a unique exotic theme are scheduled to open by the  
21 year 2000.

22 It's well known that the past decade has been one of  
23 unprecedented growth in Nevada. The Silver State has been  
24 consistently ranked number one nationally in population growth,  
25 job growth, and housing starts. More than 50,000 people each  
26 year move to Nevada with the vast majority settling in this, the

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1 Las Vegas Valley. In fact, here in Clark County we're the home  
2 of the fastest growing school district in the nation. Why are  
3 so many people to eager to make this community their home?

4 I think I can answer that question in one word,  
5 "opportunity." Here in Las Vegas men and women can find jobs  
6 that pay fair wages, companies that champion the rights of  
7 employees and offer comprehensive health benefits. Here people  
8 find affordable homes in safe neighborhoods and diverse civic  
9 and cultural organizations. They find in Las Vegas a better  
10 quality of life, a wonderful place to live, to work and to raise  
11 their families.

12 You may be surprised to learn that we have the  
13 greatest number of Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, little  
14 league teams, and churches per capita than anywhere else in the  
15 United States. As you know, the industry responsible for  
16 driving the economic engine in Nevada is gaming and many of our  
17 businesses and organizations are related directly or indirectly  
18 to the gaming industry. But gaming is certainly not all that we  
19 have to offer. More than 40 million visitors flock to Nevada  
20 each year to pursue recreational activities from boating and  
21 hiking to skiing and rock climbing. They come for sporting  
22 events, fine dining, lavish production shows, and great  
23 shopping; and they come to do business.

24 Four million people visited Las Vegas last year to  
25 take advantage of the unsurpassed convention and meeting  
26 facilities such as those here at the MGM. However, the total

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1 contribution of our state's gaming industry to federal, state  
2 and local taxes is significant. Annually it adds up to about  
3 \$2.2 billion. In fiscal year 1997 more than a third of Nevada's  
4 general revenue funds were generated directly by gaming taxes  
5 and the casino entertainment tax. In fiscal year 1996 the  
6 gaming industry's direct payroll represented one-fourth of all  
7 wages paid throughout the entire state, a figure that does not  
8 include the thousands of indirect jobs that are created by the  
9 gaming and hospitality industries.

10 In addition, we don't ignore those individuals who  
11 need a helping hand. Nevada was amongst the first five states  
12 in the nation to implement the welfare to work program designed  
13 to fund services for the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients.  
14 NEON or New Employees of Nevada is one component of our welfare  
15 reform effort that's been particularly effective in moving  
16 employees into jobs. Through collaborations within state  
17 government, the community college system, and the private  
18 sector, 400 Nevadans every month get off of welfare and find  
19 jobs ranging from food services, sales and child care to medical  
20 and clerical fields.

21 About 13 percent of Nevada's 1400 welfare families  
22 work in the hotel, gaming and recreation sector and 75 percent  
23 of the 828 welfare or food stamp recipients who secured jobs  
24 here at the MGM Grand back in 1993 have retained those jobs or  
25 moved onto better jobs within this resort. In 1992 I founded  
26 Nevada Partners, a free and comprehensive job training program

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1 targeting at risk and disadvantaged persons. This program is  
2 entirely funded through the private sector, largely through the  
3 Wensi Foundation which is a parent corporation or a subsidiary  
4 corporation of the MGM, and it wouldn't have gotten off the  
5 ground without the tremendous financial assistance of the  
6 business community and specifically in the Wensi Foundation,  
7 Kirk Korkorian (ph).

8 Nevada Partners breaks the cycle of economic  
9 dependency by helping men, women and young people build a  
10 healthy self-image, and find and maintain employment. Today  
11 nearly 3,000 Nevada Partner clients have secured jobs in hotels,  
12 casinos, banks, utility companies, and in nearly every segment  
13 of our state's business community. Now, what do these  
14 statistics mean on a more personal level?

15 They mean that Nevada's unemployment rate and  
16 consequently the number of people on the welfare roles and food  
17 stamp list fell far below the national average. They mean that  
18 personal income for Nevadans is ranked amongst the highest in  
19 the nation. And the gaming industry's contributions to state  
20 and local government also mean that Nevada does not burden its  
21 citizens or businesses with a number of taxes, such as personal  
22 or corporate income tax that deter new industry and result in  
23 sluggish economy.

24 Within the past 10 years we've witnessed a 54  
25 percent increase in the number of businesses operating in this  
26 state and a 5.5 percent annual increase in the number of

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1 employees and this means that Las Vegas and Nevadans are able to  
2 give back to their community for the good of every citizen. To  
3 put this information in more personal terms I'd like to share  
4 with you that story of Linda Helton (ph). Linda, would you  
5 stand for just a second so we can acknowledge you?

6 Linda's decision to relocate to Las Vegas quite  
7 literally saved her life. She moved here from Oregon in 1993  
8 after losing a child to cancer. In Oregon, she paid for health  
9 benefits out of her own pocket but as a food server at the Luxor  
10 Hotel, she has great health insurance which turned out to be  
11 crucial. Linda was diagnosed last year with a rare liver  
12 disease. The Culinary Union's insurance program funded Linda's  
13 successful liver transplant and pays for her medication. Six  
14 months after the operation, she was back to work and is still  
15 feeling great. Linda, thank you for being with us here today.

16 And I'm also going to introduce you to Martha Turin.  
17 Martha, would you please stand? Martha and her husband both  
18 work here at the MGM Grand. Eight years ago the Turins and  
19 their three children resided in California where they had to  
20 live on welfare. Las Vegas appealed to them because of job  
21 opportunities and health benefits, especially since two of their  
22 children have experienced serious illnesses and required many  
23 surgeries.

24 Martha tells people that Las Vegas made her dreams  
25 come true. Not only do the Turins like their jobs and feel  
26 comfortable that they can care for their children's health and

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1 financial needs, they tell me that in five years their house  
2 will be paid in full. Thank you, Martha, for being here this  
3 morning.

4 To turn to a broader perspective, for the past 17  
5 months this Commission has been studying how gaming impacts  
6 communities throughout the nation. Well, there is no better  
7 place for you to continue that study than here in Las Vegas.  
8 The growth of Nevada's gaming industry spans several decades  
9 along with the growth of its regulation. I'm very glad that  
10 this Commission has included a panel on regulatory models and  
11 within that discussion you'll discover that Nevada's gaming  
12 industry is the most refined and the safest in the world,  
13 regulated at the state level with the utmost professionalism and  
14 integrity.

15 In fact, Nevada's gaming regulators are invited to  
16 venues across the globe to discuss our model not only because we  
17 were the first in the business but because we still are the  
18 best. Now, I'm not saying that we don't have our problems,  
19 problems that as governor, I've taken seriously as have my  
20 predecessors. And none of us would deny that gaming can be a  
21 serious problem for some individuals and that we, in government,  
22 have contended with that particular issue for years.

23 In fact, we've just appropriated \$150,000.00 to  
24 study and better address problem gaming in Nevada. And contrary  
25 to common misperceptions, companies like Harrah's Entertainment,  
26 and Boyd Gaming, for example, have been involved in the fight

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1 against problem gaming since the mid-1980's. At a national  
2 level, I commend the efforts of the Commission in heightening  
3 our awareness of problem gaming. Here in Nevada we've been  
4 fortunate to have Bill Bible blazing that trail for the past 10  
5 years, but a larger problem looms on the horizon.

6 As a governor and as former chairman of the National  
7 Governor's Association, I welcome this opportunity to discuss  
8 Indian gaming with you. I can tell you that every one of our  
9 nation's governors shares serious concerns about Indian gaming.  
10 Given that Indian gaming is unregulated, that no clear license  
11 definition has been established, and because Indian gaming has a  
12 potentially serious impact on any state, it is imperative that  
13 actions are not taken hastily and that states and their  
14 governors are allowed to participate in the decision making  
15 process.

16 My fellow governors and I are equally concerned with  
17 Internet gaming, which does not protect consumers and is  
18 essentially a caveat emptoric (ph) to people of all ages and  
19 walks of life. Like Indian gaming, Internet gaming provides no  
20 revenues to help states in supporting themselves and local  
21 governments and provides no assistance to civic and social  
22 service organizations and consequently starves communities of  
23 the nourishment they simply must have to survive.

24 So when you contrast Internet and Indian gaming with  
25 the meticulously regulated Nevada gaming industry, you'll find  
26 you're comparing apples to oranges or perhaps, more

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1 appropriately comparing order to chaos. But there is no simple  
2 parallel, so if I may offer this Commission a suggestion, I  
3 would request as a federal entity that you look closely at these  
4 questionable endeavors and give them full and immediate  
5 attention since I think they're clearly within the scope of a  
6 federal review of gaming as a concept.

7 I'm confident during the next few days you'll see  
8 for yourself that we are the best in the business; bar none. I  
9 know you'll find the hospitality of Southern Nevadans to be warm  
10 and friendly and I hope you'll allow us to treat you to that  
11 hospitality by being our guest for a very special dinner tonight  
12 where you will meet people from the Las Vegas community.

13 I thank you and I offer you best wishes for a  
14 successful and enjoyable stay while here in Las Vegas. Thank  
15 you.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Governor Miller, again, thank  
17 you. (Applause)

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And Governor, I do want to thank  
19 you and your staff yet again for all of the help in putting  
20 together this agenda.

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