

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Nancy Curtin.

2 MS. CURTIN: Good afternoon. My name is Nancy
3 Curtin. I'm a cocktail server at the Santa Fe Casino in
4 northwest Las Vegas. I moved to Las Vegas from Atlantic City
5 where all casino cocktail server jobs are union with good
6 wages, benefits and job security. It wasn't until I was
7 employed at the Santa Fe that I experienced something I never
8 had in Atlantic City. At the Santa Fe every new manager would
9 bring in their friends. These workers were getting the best
10 work stations. Holidays and vacation requests were awarded
11 based on friendship rather than length of service. We worked
12 for minimum wage. We had bill collectors call our homes about
13 medical bills that the Santa Fe insurance company was late on
14 paying. I then decided this was no way to live. I wanted that
15 same great cocktail job I had back home in Atlantic City with a
16 decent salary, job security and good benefits. I knew I could
17 only get this with a union. So in September of 1992 I joined
18 the Culinary Union Committee. In a short time the majority of
19 the employees signed union cards, but the company refused to
20 recognize our union. The next year we won an NLB election for
21 union representation.

22 When I worked in Atlantic City I took my union for
23 granted. I took my legal right to belong to the union for
24 granted. At the Santa Fe I had co-workers fear for their jobs
25 for joining the union. I saw the company fire and harass
26 workers because they supported the union and threatened to lose

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1 their jobs for wearing union buttons. As a member of the union
2 committee I too was a target.

3 When we began our union drive my boyfriend worked at
4 another casino then owned by the Santa Fe. Several times he was
5 approached by his supervisors to put pressure on me to stop my
6 union activities. When he refused they fired him. Because of
7 his termination we lost the house we were buying. Unable to
8 find work in town, he was severed from his sons and me for
9 almost a year while he was working out of state. The Santa Fe
10 spent the next five years appealing our election victory before
11 finally negotiating with us. We have now been negotiating for
12 over a year and half and still do not have a contract. I have
13 been fighting to unionize the Santa Fe for over six years. I
14 could invest in my union pension, instead I have nothing.

15 People are always asking me why I stay at the Santa
16 Fe, and my answer is: After all the years of intimidation,
17 harassment, and trying to destroy our families and personal
18 life, I will not be scared away. I want to make sure no one
19 else has to go through what I went through. I want to make sure
20 that my sacrifice was not in vain. I want my union contract,
21 and I will not give up until I get it.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

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