

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Chester Nelson.

2 MR. NELSON: Madame Chairman and National Gaming  
3 Study Commission, we thank God for having blessed us with your  
4 presence today in this great state of Nevada and the city of Las  
5 Vegas. I am so honored to be part of this hearing. My name is  
6 Chester Nelson. I'm a member of Culinary Local 226, and have  
7 been employed at Bali's for a period of 25 years. I'm a baggage  
8 handler. My job is to greet all guests, check in and to assist  
9 them with their baggage prior to check in. My wife, Odessa, is  
10 an employee of the Las Vegas Hilton. She has been employed  
11 there for 29 years. My daughter, Juanita Nelson, has also been  
12 employed at Bali's Hotel and Casino for 15 years. Juanita  
13 received on-the-job training at Bali's Hotel audit department  
14 during her junior and senior years in high school. Upon  
15 graduating she was hired full time in Bali's audit department.  
16 She has since been promoted to hotel credit investigator.  
17 Between my wife, Odessa, and my daughter, Juanita, we have a  
18 total of 69 years with the Hilton corporation.

19 Commissioners, I am proud to work in a unionized  
20 hotel and casino. I am equally proud to be part of the Hilton  
21 Hotel and Casino family, because Hilton Hotels and Casinos are  
22 concerned with our well being. They have provided both Odessa,  
23 my wife of 41 years, and me with good wages and health benefits.  
24 This has been especially important to us in raising our five  
25 daughters, Linda, Chestine, Jacqueline, Juanita and Cynthia, who  
26 is directly behind me at this time. I am an ordained elder in

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1 my church and my wife is a church mother in the Fortress of  
2 Glory Church of God and Christ, 2301 Comstock Drive in north Las  
3 Vegas, Nevada. (Inaudible) Jefferson is our pastor.

4 Originally I came to Las Vegas on April 1, 1955,  
5 from Korea, Japan where I served our country well. I was  
6 stationed here at Nellis Air Force Base where I was honorably  
7 discharged in October 1956 and decided to stay and make my way  
8 in life. My wife and I are dedicated to community service. We  
9 own and operate a non-profit thrift store, C and O Thrift Store  
10 at 1176 West Lake Mead Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada. We are  
11 members of good standing in the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.  
12 This non-profit store is a lifelong dream, our way to giving  
13 back to our community. We are committed to serving seniors,  
14 those with low income, everyone in our community.

15 I would like to say a few more additional words  
16 about myself, if I may. I would like to tell you more about  
17 where I came from. I was raised in the southeast part of  
18 Arkansas where I attended school in the '40's and '50's. The  
19 books that I received had the first half of the pages torn out  
20 of them. This did not discourage me. Additionally, I worked in  
21 the cotton fields for \$2 per day. 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., which  
22 in those days is called a full day's work. I have not dwelled  
23 on that in the past. I do not intend to dwell on this today.  
24 Nevertheless, I have learned to dwell on this and it has made me  
25 more determined to succeed. Yes, I've persevered.

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1           Commissioners, the gaming industry has afforded me  
2 the opportunity to accomplish my dreams. In short, we are just  
3 ordinary people in ordinary jobs providing for our families just  
4 as all other honest Americans throughout the United States.

5           Finally, I would like to share a scripture with you.  
6 Galatians Fifth Chapter, Verse 7. "You did run well, but who  
7 hindered you that you should not obey the truth." Through God,  
8 faith and truth, Commissioners, I did run well. No one has  
9 hindered me. I kept my family together while working at a  
10 casino in this town. Thank you and God bless you, and may he  
11 keep you and your family.

12           CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.