

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: David Schafer.

2 MR. SCHAFFER: Good afternoon. My name is Dave
3 Schafer. I came to Las Vegas 17 years ago from Rochester, New
4 York because Las Vegas was the fastest growing city in the
5 United States. I was at the age of 36 and felt I needed a job
6 with security, benefits and a retirement. I got a job at the
7 Imperial Palace, a non-union casino as a cook. It had decent
8 wages but little benefits and retirement. It didn't matter much
9 at that time. My wife was a cocktail waitress at a union casino
10 that had great benefits. After 13 years of working my way to
11 the top of my field I got fired for an invalid reason. It would
12 take too long to explain. Being a non-union casino they got
13 away with it. Several months later my wife and I got divorced,
14 so now my life had a big turn around. I had no security with a
15 job or retirement. After a short time I got a job with ARC Las
16 Vegas, the largest subcontracting company in Las Vegas. At
17 orientation they told us they were going to have competitive
18 wages, benefits and promotions within. In a few months they
19 came out with their first benefit program. For a family package
20 its cost was \$326 a month. Now who could afford that plan when
21 people were working as bus people, food servers, and kitchen
22 help and so forth making minimum wages.

23 After several months from the time ARC opened, the
24 union organized a committee inside to help organize the people
25 so they could have the same standard of living all the other
26 casinos had. I was part of that committee. After several weeks

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1 I got fired for no reason but wearing a union committee button
2 and organizing inside, which was my federal right. The worse
3 part of that was when I went home I had to explain that to my
4 six-year-old granddaughter why I got fired from my job for
5 wearing a button.

6 Now I have a union job with benefits, wages and a
7 great retirement. Now I understand the standard of living
8 everyone should have. I believe gaming is good only in Las
9 Vegas, but only if it's in a union casino.

10 Thank you.

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