

1 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Bob Mahoney. Courtney's next.

2 Thank you, Bob.

3 MR. MAHONEY: Anyway, that's a hard act to follow.

4 Thank you. But anyway, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My
5 name is Bob Mahoney. I'm a native of Biloxi, Mississippi. My
6 family owns and operates Mary Mahoney's Old French House
7 Restaurant. We began our business some 35 years ago.

8 My appearance here is to explain the impact that
9 legalized gaming has had on our business during the past six
10 years. We have experienced the good, the bad and the new
11 Mississippi miracle, and believe me, it's been a miracle for the
12 working and the business people of the surrounding area.

13 The good times were when all the statewide
14 conventions were coming to the coast for their annual convention.
15 But in the late 1980s, because of the deteriorating conditions of
16 our major hotels, of which three were in bankruptcy and the other
17 one didn't care, the bad times began.

18 We lost the Mississippi Bar Association, the
19 Mississippi Automobile Dealers, the Mississippi Bankers, the
20 Mississippi Medical Associations and many more conventions. What
21 we had to offer was not first-class. We were a tourist town
22 without tourists.

23 So now the Mississippi miracle has occurred with the
24 legalization of casino gaming. I would like to mention that our
25 casinos are extremely well operated, good corporate citizens, and
26 our gaming commission beyond reproach. We are very proud of this
27 industry that now enhances our coast and the conventions are
28 back.

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1 It may interest you to know that casinos have created
2 a positive impact on our business, which is up substantially.
3 The casinos have created jobs for the average person that lift
4 their quality of life with hourly wages, in a lot of instance,
5 from 14 to \$18 an hour range, plus all employees receive medical
6 benefits.

7 Contrary to what you hear that casinos don't produce
8 anything, well, let me tell you they do, as does Yankee Stadium,
9 the L.A. Forum, Wrigley Field, Madison Square Garden, Six Flags,
10 Disneyworld and the Superdome and other people places. They
11 produce good times.

12 A priest friend of mine once told me that nothing God
13 created is sinful, only the abuse. I would like to thank you for
14 coming to Biloxi so we can share our Mississippi miracle with
15 you.

16 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Mahoney.

17 MR. MAHONEY: Thank you.

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