

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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4 NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION

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9 FIFTH ON-SITE MEETING

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12  
13 FRIDAY

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15 SEPTEMBER 11, 1998

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19 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

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23 The Commission met at the Grande Ballroom, Radisson Hotel,  
24 1500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, at 8:30 a.m., Kay C.  
25 James, Chair, presiding.

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1 PRESENT:

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3 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION PRESENT:

4 KAY C. JAMES, Chair  
5 GEORGE J. TERWILLIGER, III, ESQ.  
6 PAUL H. MOORE  
7 J. TERRENCE LANNI  
8 JOHN W. WILHELM  
9 ROBERT W. LOESCHER  
10 RICHARD C. LEONE  
11 JAMES C. DOBSON  
12 WILLIAM A. BIBLE  
13 LEO T. McCARTHY

14

15 STAFF PRESENT

16	TIMOTHY A. KELLY, Ph.D.	Acting Executive Director
17	GEORGE J. TERWILLIGER, III, Esq.	Counsel to the Commission
18		
19	MARTH CLEMENT ROBERTS	Deputy Director
20	DOUGLAS SEAY	Policy Director
21	JOHN SHOSKY, Ph.D.	Senior Report Writer
22	KATHERINE SPILDE, Ph.D.	Associate Report Writer
23	TIMOTHY BIDWILL, Esq.	Special Assistant to the
24		Chair
25	CRAIG STEVENS	Logistics and
26		Communications
27		Coordinator
28	JANET NEWKIRK	Secretary
29	DEBORAH DU CRE'	Receptionist
30	SOHEE PARK	Intern

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1 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Welcome to the fifth on-site meeting  
2 of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission. My name is Kay  
3 James, and on behalf of the Commission, I'd like to call this  
4 meeting back to order and declare that we do have a quorum to  
5 conduct today's business.

6 For many of you this may be the first time that  
7 you've had an encounter with the work of the Commission, and so I  
8 will take a few minutes just to brief you about who we are and  
9 what we've been tasked to do.

10 I want to acknowledge that whether or not you are a  
11 speaker here to testify or someone who's looking forward to our  
12 public comment period that your presence here today is absolutely  
13 vital to the work that we do and is very much appreciated.

14 The issue of legal gambling is a source of much  
15 public policy debate and it's an issue whose importance will  
16 increase over the next few years. Understandably, many Americans  
17 are seeking information about the social and the economic impact  
18 of legalized gambling. One indication of that increasing  
19 interest was the creation of this Commission.

20 Another sign of the growing interest of this issue is  
21 the tremendous level of contact that the Commission has had with  
22 nearly every sector of society and every sector of government.  
23 Lawmakers across the nation, as well as concerned citizens and  
24 community leaders, are looking forward to the research findings  
25 of this Commission.

26 In fact, the last comprehensive national study  
27 conducted by the Federal Government on this particular issue  
28 occurred over two decades ago.

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1 We are now in the process of gathering information to  
2 help public policy makers understand the nature and the scope and  
3 the impact of legalized gambling. The nine members of the  
4 Commission were appointed by the president, the speaker of the  
5 House, and the Senate majority leader. Each member has shown a  
6 great dedication to our examination of the many issues  
7 surrounding legalized gambling.

8 Previously we've conducted meetings in Washington,  
9 D.C.; we've also traveled to Atlantic City, Boston, Chicago,  
10 Delmar and Tempe to conduct on-site hearings.

11 Yesterday we were in Biloxi, Mississippi, and the  
12 Commission will then travel to Nevada in November. These site  
13 visits will aid us in our main task which is the submission of a  
14 final report to the president, the Congress, state governors,  
15 Native American tribal governments, and the rest of the nation on  
16 June 18 of 1999.

17 I should tell you that when the Commission developed  
18 its schedule of site visits, we did not intend to visit every  
19 type of gambling establishment across the country; to do so would  
20 take far longer than the two years that we've been given. And we  
21 recognize the important distinctions among and between the  
22 various types of casinos, betting parlors, and lottery games; we  
23 recognize these differences and will continue to work to  
24 understand them.

25 But our principal task is to study the social and the  
26 economic impact of legalized gambling on our nation; that's why  
27 we've come to New Orleans today. There's much to learn here and

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1 we look forward to the debate and to the discussion and to  
2 receiving your testimony.

3 We've invited government officials who can enlighten  
4 us about the variables that weigh heavily in public policy  
5 decisions; we've invited advocates for and against legalized  
6 gambling in order to get a full range of opinions; and we've  
7 invited citizens who have a compelling story to tell. Each  
8 person who will testify today has a viewpoint and we want to hear  
9 and we want to respectfully consider their views.

10 We've crafted topical panels to allow for focused  
11 discussion. Yesterday in Biloxi our panels looked at: Gambling  
12 and the National Economy, Gambling and Economical Depressed  
13 Communities; and Gambling and Crime. Today our opening panel is  
14 Pathological Gambling: Methods of Treatment and Prevention; we  
15 will look at State Regulation: Promoting versus Restricting the  
16 Industry; then the Commission will continue our two-day  
17 discussion on Gambling and Crime. Finally, we will be honored by  
18 the appearance of several local officials, and the day will close  
19 with our business meeting and public comment period.

20 As in the past, I'd like to express my gratitude to  
21 each of my fellow commissioners for their commitment to the ideal  
22 of public service and their dedication to the work of this  
23 Commission. I want to thank Commissioners Lanni and Dobson for  
24 their contributions concerning the issues of pathological  
25 gambling and gambling and crime. I also want to extend my  
26 appreciation to the rest of the commissioners for chairing and  
27 serving on the various subcommittees.

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1 In our commission discussion, my responsibility as  
2 chair is to protect the right of all sides to be heard, and I  
3 look forward to doing that today as we respectfully receive your  
4 testimony.

5 In closing, I'd like to thank Governor Foster, the  
6 State of Louisiana, Mayor Morial and the City of New Orleans for  
7 their hospitality and cooperation in hosting our meeting. I've  
8 been to New Orleans before.

9 In fact, I reminded the staff last night that we could  
10 pretty much eat anywhere we like because I had a key to the city  
11 that was presented the last time I was here by the mayor in  
12 another capacity. It hangs on my office wall and it's something  
13 that I'm very proud of, and so I'm delighted to be back in New  
14 Orleans. And I still haven't figured out exactly what that key  
15 opens, but we did get excellent service and had a wonderful time  
16 last night.

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