

1 have sworn to uphold and defend.

2 I want to thank you for this opportunity
3 to speak. I'm thrilled that this Commission has been
4 formed, and I charge you with doing what is best for
5 state governments and the American people, not a
6 special interest group that has deep pockets and
7 political influence.

8 I hope that when you tour the casinos
9 you'll take a moment to step into the back alleys and
10 see what gambling's true effects are on live
11 anecdotes.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Dianne Berlin.

14 MS. BERLIN: Good afternoon. I am Dianne
15 Berlin, founder and chairman of the Lancaster County,
16 Pennsylvanians Against Gambling Expansion.

17 Thank you for the privilege of speaking.

18 Our group opposed an off-track betting
19 facility proposed in East Lampeter Township in the
20 Pennsylvania Dutch Country of Lancaster County.
21 Citizens of that community voted no on allowing small
22 games of chance.

1 In a community where bingo or raffle by a
2 charitable organization would have to cease
3 immediately, the citizens have had to endure a full
4 operating bookie joint for more than a year while
5 they're waiting for the appeal to be heard. That will
6 occur on September 9th.

7 Penn National Turf Club, Inc.'s
8 application for an off-track betting parlor in this
9 community was inappropriate, to say the least. To
10 have that site approved by a self-serving, appointed
11 commission is reprehensible.

12 The briefs are included in your packet,
13 along with a few of the outstanding facts of the
14 atrocity. You will find a partial list of the
15 opposition to this book making facility. You will see
16 that it includes members from almost every sector of
17 the community.

18 In 1833, Pennsylvania was the first state
19 to ban lotteries or "looterries." Today in addition to
20 state lottery games, betting at the tracks, and OTBs,
21 we have been targeted for all other forms of expanded
22 gambling.

1 The off-track betting legislation was
2 supposed to help a dying horse racing industry. They
3 have been dying for years and are dying again. Now
4 the life support being suggested is -- and can you
5 believe this? -- slots at the track, and they even
6 attempted to get them at the off-track betting
7 facilities.

8 Maybe it is time to end life support and
9 call in Hospice.

10 Horse racing's downfall seems to be when
11 it gave up on itself and went with the shallow promise
12 of gambling forces of something for almost nothing.
13 Is there a lesson in this for us? Any other business
14 would be delighted to have had just one of the special
15 privileges of the horse racing business in
16 Pennsylvania.

17 As a former educator, I can't resist
18 giving assignments. So in your packet is a list of
19 questions for you as a Commission to answer as you
20 conduct your investigations.

21 As a Commission, your greatest
22 responsibility is not to yourselves and the general

1 public, but to our children and other future
2 generations who will look at what is being done here
3 with either pride or further cynicism about the
4 integrity and credibility of adults, this Commission,
5 and our government.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Tom Grey.

8 MR. GREY: Chairperson James and members
9 of the Commission, I want to properly introduce our
10 movement. It really is a citizens' campaign, not a
11 religious crusade. It bridges Ralph Reed -- I've got
12 my left hand, but that's okay. He won't mind -- and
13 Ralph Nader on the right and left. You can sit the
14 rest of American between the two Ralphs. This is not
15 ideological. It has to do with citizens that found
16 themselves under attack from gambling.

17 Our hopes for you as a Commission is we
18 really look at you as our Commission. There were
19 6,000 bills that went before the 104th Congress. Only
20 200 passed, and we're happy that you're here and that
21 you're going to listen in public.

22 It's been gratifying to hear the emphasis