

1 civil rights, our rights, and the Constitution.

2 We have, in my last statement, would like
3 for someone to look into this from the Justice
4 Department to support us.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

7 Mr. Stiegler.

8 MR. STIEGLER: Stiegler.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Stiegler.

10 MR. STIEGLER: My name is Doug Stiegler.

11 I'm the Director of the Family Protection Lobby in the
12 State of Maryland, represent families, about 15,000
13 people, in the state.

14 In several of our newsletters in the past
15 three years, we've addressed the gambling issue, and
16 in each one of those I've always gotten responses to
17 no casinos, no gambling, no expansion, and not one
18 that says, "We want it."

19 Does that mean that these people don't
20 gamble? I don't think so. They bet on the Super
21 Bowl. They bet their neighbor on the Super Bowl and
22 that kind of a thing. They go to bingo. They even go

1 to Atlantic City or Las Vegas.

2 But what it does mean is that they're
3 opposed to it for several reasons, and one is moral
4 decay. More and more young people are becoming
5 addicted to gambling all over the country. There's a
6 numbing of the social conscience. The message is:
7 everybody's doing it. What's the big deal?
8 Somebody's got to win. It might as well be me.

9 Consequences for the gambling are not
10 weighed.

11 The second is easy accessibility.
12 Initially casinos were in a far away place. A
13 conscious effort had to be made to go there. Most
14 people are realizing that they don't want to have one
15 of these on the way home from work. This could be a
16 problem in their communities.

17 In the packet that I have prepared for you
18 there are two quarterly reports from the Delaware
19 Council on Gaming, Gaming Problems. The highlights
20 show the increase in the number of calls to the
21 Gambling Problem Commission and also that there are
22 more females than males. Their main problem is with

1 slot machines and most of them are married, and this
2 is a family issue, and that's what concerns me and the
3 people that I represent.

4 Government promotion and encouragement is
5 the third thing that people are concerned with. They
6 see an example of the state lotteries, which we have
7 in Maryland. It started out that in the first year
8 the lottery in 1973 was one weekly game. It has
9 expanded every two to three years with little or no
10 legislative oversight. It just has taken hold because
11 it's been granted.

12 It now has a life of its own. There are
13 numerous instant games, scratch-off games, pick threes
14 played twice daily, pick fours twice daily. Lotto is
15 \$1 million twice weekly game. Match five has expanded
16 to seven days a week. Keno is played every five
17 minutes, 19 hours a day in Maryland.

18 These games take in over \$1 billion, and
19 they're predominantly from the lower income
20 communities. The lowest level of spending is from the
21 highest income counties.

22 With ads like these, and these are out of

1 the local Baltimore Sun, we can see that there's a
2 growing dependency from the state. These ads are paid
3 for with state dollars, taxpayer dollars.

4 The trend is that we want to see this
5 reversed at the state level and the local level where
6 government should be a protector and not a predator.

7 And I thank you all for being involved
8 with us in this issue.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Hollingsworth.

11 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you very much.

12 I'm Pierre Hollingsworth of the NAACP of
13 Atlantic City and also a former city commissioner when
14 gaming was passed in the City of Atlantic City.

15 This year represents 21 years since the
16 passage of gaming in Atlantic City. Many of the
17 residents of Horace Bryant, Jr. Drive, the West Side,
18 Monroe, Venice Park, this same lagoon area supported
19 and voted for gaming for the job opportunities and
20 economic development that was presented.

21 Organizations throughout this threatened
22 area have adjusted to the traffic down Ohio Avenue,