grassroots organizations are here today. We will be
at every community meeting to discuss this topic until
this fight is won, and we thank you for your effort
and the time that you have placed with this committee
to study this issue.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Leopold.

MR. LEOPOLD: Thank you, Madame Chairman.

I'm a state legislator from the State of
Maryland. In 1963, the Maryland legislature passed
legislation to phase out slot machines. That was to
be accomplished over a five-year period.

In 1968, a bill was introduced to hold off
that phase-out, to continue slot machines. The Senate
Majority leader from Washington County was offered a
$10,000 bribe to vote for that bill. Another
legislator, a State Senator from my county, was also
offered $5,000 in cash in an envelope outside the
Senate chamber.

So the political link between slot
machines and political corruption is very real, was
very real in the State of Maryland in the 1960s. I do
not want to see that return as a fact of life in my state.

On the issue of cannibalism, it's been discussed by many. I endorse the findings of the Maryland Restaurant Association. The Governor of Illinois, Governor Edgar, has spoken about the ill effects on other industries in the State of Illinois from river boat gambling.

Before my committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, testimony was received by the Mississippi Restaurant Association it did not have a deleterious effect on the restaurant industry in that state.

This Commission could do a very important service by getting the facts as to the impact on other businesses, the deleterious effects on other business. I happen to endorse the findings that it does have a harmful effect, but it's this Commission's job to help find that out.

Finally, legislation was introduced in the Nebraska legislature earlier this year to allow states that prohibit casino gambling to prohibit the
advertisement of casino gambling in their states. I'm exploring that possibility in the State of Maryland. I would like to see this Commission endorse such legislation.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Jameson.

MR. JAMESON: Thank you, members of the committee.

If you have this handout that I distributed to you, you'll know where I'm from, Cecil County, Maryland. It has a little map there, and we're in the top right-hand corner of the state.

I'd like to tell you that I'm a born again Christian, and that I believe in Jesus Christ, and that gambling is a waste of money and, therefore, prohibited by my faith because of stewardship.

I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I bring you greetings from our Bishop, Peter Weaver, and the Board of Church and Society of the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference, of which I am a member, and I'm a resident of Cecil County, Maryland, and I also bring you greetings from our Cecil County commissioners.