

1 video blackjack game that was made, ages five and up.

2 I want you to have this.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I think we've already
4 determined that the Commissioners cannot receive
5 gifts, and if we receive them we can't use them.

6 MR. JAMESON: I got this at K-Mart, and
7 it's by Caesar's Palace, and it says "ages 5 and up."

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: We can receive them,
9 we just can't use them.

10 Linda Smith.

11 MS. SMITH: I'm Linda Smith. I'm from
12 nearby Maryland.

13 The president of my community association
14 advised me not to come here today. He said it would
15 be a waste of my time and my effort. I have chosen to
16 disregard his advice because I believe that people who
17 care can make a difference in preserving or improving
18 the quality of life for their family, their community
19 and even their nation.

20 And, distinguished Chairwoman and
21 gentlemen, I know that you believe that as well or you
22 would not have agreed to serve on this Commission.

1 It is truly a great privilege for me to be
2 able to speak to this distinguished panel. I
3 appreciate your giving your time and employing your
4 talent to serve your country by investigating the
5 impact of gambling.

6 I have not been paid to be here. I have
7 paid all my own expenses, and I am happy to do that
8 for all the parents who live too far away to travel
9 here today.

10 I know that you have access to all the
11 pertinent statistics. So I just wish to relate to you
12 my personal observations and concerns.

13 My primary observation is that the
14 gambling industry is very good at marketing itself.
15 For several years now, they have been trying to bring
16 slot machines and casinos to Maryland. Only the work
17 of the Maryland senators and delegates, some of whom
18 already testified, and the strong stand taken by
19 Governor Glendening and Attorney General Curran have
20 prevented the influx of commercial gambling into
21 Maryland because, as I was able to observe first hand
22 when I testified before the Maryland House Ways and

1 Means Committee in Annapolis, the gambling industry is
2 excellent at appearing appealing. They have presented
3 themselves as a painless way to raise revenues and as
4 the only hope to save Maryland's proud tradition of
5 horse racing.

6 They have also played one state against
7 another, telling us that Delaware slot machines will
8 destroy Maryland's horse racing industry, and that
9 Delaware and West Virginia are siphoning out all of
10 Maryland's tax dollars -- tourist dollars, and that if
11 Maryland does not act quickly, both Pennsylvania and
12 Virginia will legalize slots and do the same thing.

13 Of course, the people of Pennsylvania are
14 being told the same, but to them Maryland is the ogre
15 that's going to rise up and take their tourist
16 dollars.

17 I have also had an opportunity to observe
18 the effect of slot machines and casinos in other
19 states. In 1990, while our family was traveling to
20 Yosemite National Park, we stayed overnight in Reno,
21 Nevada. We decided to visit a family oriented casino.

22 Upstairs was an all you can eat style

1 buffet and an area where circus acts performed to
2 entertain the children. Downstairs were the slot
3 machines and all the gaming tables.

4 I observed that throughout the casino was
5 carefully designed to prevent me from sensing the
6 passage of time. Not only were there no clocks, but
7 there were no windows and no way of telling if it was
8 night or day, and everything operated continuously 24
9 hours per day.

10 I consider myself a responsible mother,
11 but I found myself being lulled into a mindset
12 thinking the children are being entertained, and I
13 didn't even realize how much time I was spending
14 downstairs.

15 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ms. Johnson, I'm going
16 to have to ask you to submit the remaining portions of
17 your comments for the record.

18 MS. SMITH: Okay. Can I just --

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I would ask that you
20 submit it, and I promise you that we will read those
21 comments.

22 MS. SMITH: Okay. Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You are welcome.

2 Deborah Doxtator, is it? And Ernie
3 Stevens.

4 Are you Mr. Johnson?

5 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Alexis Johnson

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You're Alexis Johnson.
7 Okay. I apologize.

8 MR. JOHNSON: It's confusing.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's all right.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chairman, my name is
11 Alexis Johnson. I'm a lawyer licensed in New Mexico.
12 I've represented citizens and legislators against the
13 Governor of New Mexico on compacts three times.

14 The issue in those cases has been
15 substantially does the Governor of New Mexico have the
16 power to sign compacts that are out of the scope of
17 the constitution of New Mexico. The answer has been
18 a resounding no. That answer is now incorporated with
19 the U.S. government's litigation. It is moving
20 through the district courts, where it has proceeded
21 beyond the 10th Circuit. It is now on a petition for
22 cert. in the U.S. Supreme Court to answer a very