

1 only steps away.

2 I wish that you would come in the summer
3 so that you could experience the real magic here. Our
4 children love it, and we love it.

5 Anyway, do we have some problems?
6 Absolutely. Can we solve them? Positively.

7 So while we appreciate your interest in
8 our progress, we really don't need any federal
9 intervention, and we certainly don't need any new
10 taxes.

11 In closing, if you feel you must do
12 something for us, just say a little prayer remembering
13 that prayer doesn't change things, but it changes
14 people, and people change things.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIRMAN JAMES: We have lots of people
18 who want to speak tonight, and I really ask your
19 indulgence because think about that. She got applause
20 and somebody else didn't, and they're all excellent,
21 and we want to hear from everybody, and that really
22 eats into our time. So I'm going to please ask you

1 not to do that.

2 Kevin Armstrong.

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Good evening. My name is
4 Kevin Armstrong. My wife Cindy spoke earlier this
5 evening. I'm a member of Local 54.

6 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Welcome.

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: In the summer of 1974, my
8 first summer living in the Atlantic City area, the
9 Boardwalk was a desolate strip with a few businesses,
10 old broken down hotels, and many people looking for
11 the few jobs that were available.

12 Atlantic City has undergone many changes
13 since then, and I want to share with you how casino
14 gaming has changed my life.

15 Casino gaming has given myself and my
16 seven younger brothers and sisters a life that we
17 never could have dreamed of. Each of my siblings have
18 been affected by gaming. Either they have a job in
19 gaming or their spouses have jobs directly or
20 indirectly related to the gaming industry.

21 Gaming has enabled us all to remain in
22 South Jersey and stay close as a family.

1 Gaming has also indirectly made my mom and
2 dad the happiest grandparents in the world. They have
3 been blessed with 18 grandchildren, one more on the
4 way.

5 With our family living close to each
6 other, my mom and dad get to see their grandchildren
7 all the time, something a lot of grandparents in
8 America only wish they could do.

9 On the other hand, my wife's older
10 brothers and sister had to move out of Atlantic City
11 in the '60s and '70s because there was no work for
12 them here. Some of her family is in California,
13 Seattle, Vancouver, and Idaho. We hardly ever get to
14 see her side of the family.

15 Casino gaming has also made me the
16 happiest father on the face of this earth. Having a
17 chance to work different shifts, I have been able to
18 volunteer as a youth sports coach, volunteer my time
19 with the PAL, and be home after school to help in my
20 son's homework.

21 I can also proudly say that I attended
22 almost every one of their baseball, football, hockey,

1 and basketball games. This is something that every
2 father in America has wished he could do.

3 Gaming has allowed us to take vacations,
4 vacations with my mom and dad, brothers and sisters,
5 and has allowed me countless hours of quality,
6 wholesome family time.

7 I'm a living example of the American
8 dream. I've been blessed with a beautiful wife, two
9 fine boys, a large, close family, a house, a car, and
10 a truck in the driveway, all as a direct result of
11 casino gaming.

12 I am positive that without gaming myself
13 and my brothers and sisters would have never stayed in
14 South Jersey, and our lives would have been
15 drastically different.

16 I have seen Atlantic City change in the
17 last 20 years, a change that has been for the better.
18 Gaming has given kids out of high school a chance for
19 employment while earning college degrees. It has
20 employed senior citizens, gotten people off welfare,
21 and created thousands of jobs in the surrounding
22 communities.

1 Atlantic City has risen from a washed up,
2 ruined beach town to become a world class destination
3 resort with endless opportunities for everyone in the
4 future.

5 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.
6 Mr. Clark.

7 DR. CLARK: My name is Dr. Harold Clark,
8 and I'm a clinical psychologist and a Board certified
9 psychoanalyst, and I serve as the clinical director
10 for the Clark Institute of Brigantine, New Jersey,
11 which is just across the inlet from downtown Atlantic
12 City, where my wife, Barbara Clark, and I provide
13 professional counseling services to individuals,
14 couples, and families, including those particularly
15 who are suffering from alcohol, drug, or gambling
16 addictions.

17 For the record, I did my first paper on
18 the treatment of teenage gambling -- teenage drug
19 addicts in 1950 or so, and I've been involved ever
20 since in programs which are designed to help treat
21 addictions, and more importantly, I believe, to help
22 to try to prevent the onset of addictive behavior.