

1 on?"

2 I couldn't. The signs were all around me.
3 They were invisible to me. Everything I wanted from
4 gambling though I have now from not gambling.

5 Thanks.

6 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Joel, thank you very
7 much.

8 Harvey G.

9 HARVEY G,: Good evening, ladies and
10 gentlemen.

11 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Harvey, would you pull
12 that --

13 HARVEY G.: Sure.

14 CHAIRMAN JAMES: -- so that we can --

15 HARVEY G.: You look so scary up there.

16 I --

17 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Please, not this group.

18 HARVEY G.: Not this group.

19 My name is Harvey, and I'm a compulsive
20 gambler, and I haven't gambled for a long time, but I
21 remember.

22 I remember when I was young the only thing

1 I ever wanted to be was an attorney, dreamt of it,
2 schemed for it, my only dream in life, and it never
3 came easy. I worked very hard to obtain it, worked
4 through high school, college, and later law school,
5 and became an attorney in the State of New Jersey.

6 And my dream came true, and I remember
7 when I became an attorney, my parents, who hadn't gone
8 through high school, were just so happy and proud that
9 their son had become an attorney. My God, what a gift
10 I gave them.

11 And I remember building up probably the
12 largest real estate practice for a single practitioner
13 in the State of New Jersey, but I also remember
14 building up a larger, more horrible gambling problem
15 because gambling became more important to me than
16 anything.

17 It became more important than law. It
18 became more important than my family, my wife and
19 three children. It became the most important thing in
20 my life.

21 I don't know why, and I don't know when it
22 changed, but it did, and I remember doing things I

1 thought I was incapable of doing. I never stole
2 anything in my life, and I found myself doing terrible
3 things to gamble.

4 Every single vacation became a gambling
5 vacation whether my family liked it or not. They were
6 bound to come with me.

7 But I mostly remember sitting down with my
8 wife in May of 1980 and telling her that the house
9 that we had had three mortgages, that the bank
10 accounts that we had saved were no longer there, that
11 the children's funds for college were gone, that my
12 lifelong ambition as attorney would never ever be
13 again, but most of all, that I -- that I had no self-
14 esteem, no desire to live, and I prayed every single
15 night after that that I would die, that I wouldn't go
16 on another minute. I remember that most of all.

17 But I also remember finding Gamblers
18 Anonymous, and I haven't gambled a day since then. I
19 thought life was over. It gave me a resurrection. It
20 brought back my children to me, my family to me. It
21 brought back hope, hope I hadn't had for a long, long
22 time.

1 My message is not to tell you to close
2 casinos. My message is perhaps to tell you that there
3 is hope out there. Perhaps we can publicize it.
4 Perhaps we can teach it. Perhaps we can make people
5 aware.

6 I was one of the fortunate ones, very
7 fortunate, and I know I have to close now.

8 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Harvey.

9 HARVEY G.: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Michael S.

11 MICHAEL S.: Yes. Good evening. My name
12 is Michael S., and I am a compulsive gambler, and I
13 made my last bet on September 5th of 1994, and I'm
14 going to say what's been said already. I am not for
15 or against the casinos. I do not want to see them
16 shut down.

17 People can gamble normally. I cannot, and
18 I'm going to tell a little tale, and this is a tale
19 about a 14 year old boy that entered Atlantic City and
20 stood in front of the Playboy Casino and stood in
21 front of the glass and watched his grandparents
22 gamble, and from that moment on, that's all he wanted