

1 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: How many credit
2 cards did you use in any one gambling facility?

3 RALPH O.: All of them if necessary.

4 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Eighteen credit
5 cards?

6 RALPH O.: At one time I came down here.

7 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Was it a racetrack
8 or a casino?

9 RALPH O.: No, this was all in the casino.

10 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

12 Bill Barry.

13 MR. BARRY: Good evening, Madame Chair,
14 ladies and gentlemen.

15 My name is Bill Barry, and I'm a resident
16 of Barnigan, New Jersey, approximately 40 miles north
17 of Atlantic City. My wife, Lee, and I have lived
18 there since the purchase of our home in 1973.

19 '73 was a very good year. A new home, the
20 birth of our first child, Melanie. I was working in
21 sales at the time and worked in the New York metro
22 area. This was a big change for me, from a rock and

1 roll musician and junk yard mechanic. A steady
2 paycheck, benefits.

3 Our second child, William, was born in
4 1975, and the times were changing. The stability I
5 had thought that I had was no more. Gas shortages,
6 downsizing meant unemployment for me. Six months out
7 of work.

8 After all, things weren't that bad. My
9 wife was working in banking at the time. I had
10 enjoyed great success in sales as an eastern regional
11 manager, but even with a good resume, there weren't
12 enough jobs to go around.

13 I ran into an old friend who was working
14 in a restaurant in North Jersey 80 miles from home.
15 It was 1976. I needed work. I did everything in the
16 restaurant, cleaned, kitchen prep., bussed tables,
17 waited tables, swept up every night. I guess looking
18 back now, I guess it wasn't a union shop.

19 I changed jobs frequently since the rate
20 of pay was always the same, \$5 per hour or \$25 per
21 shift. Tips and being closer to home was the most
22 important thing in my mind.

1 The restaurant business in South Jersey is
2 a seasonal one and primarily was held by school
3 teachers who were off from school for the summer.

4 They moved from job to job to work the hottest spot.

5 I finally found a place in Tom's River 20
6 miles from home and thought it was my final stop until
7 I answered an ad for a casino bartender in a local
8 paper. I was hired as a bartender November 1980 at
9 the Golden Nugget, and I am now in my 18th years with
10 the casino, and being a member of Local 54 and working
11 in the casino has afforded myself and my family a
12 stable way of life that would not have been possible
13 in the past.

14 The low wages, lack of benefits, and
15 general working conditions would never have afforded
16 me the peace of mind that I have now. The benefits
17 alone have saved me from financial ruin. My wife has
18 had eight foot operations. My son was hit by an 85
19 mile an hour fast ball, breaking his jaw in several
20 places, and I have had hand and elbow surgery. Thank
21 God, my daughter through routine check-ups has avoided
22 any major problems.

1 My wife, who was forced out of banking by
2 the RTC, also holds a casino job as a nonunion cage
3 cashier.

4 Working in the casinos has enabled us to
5 see our daughter graduate from Stockton College and
6 pursue her Master's in social work, our son graduate
7 from basic training in the United States Marine Corps
8 as Honor Man and is stationed at Willow Grove Naval
9 Air Station as a Reserve in the military police. He
10 is also attending John Jay Criminal Justice School at
11 New York University with the intent of working one day
12 for the FBI.

13 So as you can see, as a casino worker, the
14 American dream is a reality for myself and my family,
15 and the stability it has given us is something I thank
16 God for every day.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

19 (Applause.0

20 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Don W.

21 DON W.: My name is Don W. I am a
22 compulsive gambler. I made my last bet on June 12th,