

1 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Dallas Massey, Senior?

2 MR. MASSEY: My name is Dallas Massey, Senior. I'm
3 the tribal chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. And
4 members of the Commission, welcome to the State of Arizona. I
5 hope your stay here is a pleasant one. And I come to you from
6 the White Mountain areas, the cool weather of the eastern part of
7 Arizona and also our reservation consists of 1.6 million acres
8 and we have approximately 13,000 tribal members. The majority of
9 these members are less than 18 years old, approximately 50
10 percent of them. And we have unemployment rate over 35 percent
11 and a medium income for the reservation is 13,000 compared to the
12 state figures, 27,000.

13 Before casino came along, the White Mountain Apache
14 Tribe based mostly on their timber industry and our annual
15 allowable cut at that time was over 110 million board feet. But
16 now we reduced that annual allowable cut down to 54. That
17 reduced our income real low, made it real difficult to provide
18 our essential government services, such as social services,
19 higher income, law enforcement, fire protection, funding of
20 tribal courts and other federal responsibility. It's difficult
21 to get loans without casinos.

22 Right away I'll go into all the regional and tribal
23 benefits of Hondah Casino owned and operated by the White
24 Mountain Apache Tribe. Revenues from casinos have funded a new
25 substance abuse treatment facility, a supplemental funding of
26 replacement of tribal executive building destroyed by a fire in
27 1993, a \$1 million contribution to the State of Arizona White
28 River School District for the completion of a gymnasium and

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1 activity center in White River, repair and renovated tribal
2 swimming pool into operative condition, develop tribal museum, a
3 major attraction Fort Apache Museum federal requirements, a
4 tribal youth center basketball court, \$1 million scholarship for
5 college education -- pursuing a college education, purchase 20
6 tribal vehicles to replace old worn-outs, impacts payrolls,
7 almost \$6 million, purchases goods and services, almost \$11
8 million, payroll taxes paid, \$1.1 million sales to Pinetop,
9 almost \$200,000.00. All these would have been impossible if we
10 didn't have gaming.

11 If you look in your room there's a valet guide in
12 there. On the second page, there's a casino in there, convention
13 center. If it wasn't for gaming, we wouldn't have that. It has
14 provided us 454 employees which 298 are tribal members, 40 Native
15 Americans and 116 other people. Thank you, without this it would
16 have been impossible.

17 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Madam Chairman, may I ask him
18 just a few questions? His is unique.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That normally is not done during
20 the public comment period but since it's you, Doctor Moore.

21 COMMISSIONER MOORE: The only reason I'd like to ask
22 him a question is they've got 1.6 million acres of land and it's
23 13,000 instead of 50. Most of the tribes have been 50. Why
24 aren't all of your people working at the casino? What is your --
25 what's your unemployment rate?

26 MR. MASSEY: Unemployment rate in 1990 figures shows
27 35 percent.

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1 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Why aren't all of them working
2 at your casino?

3 MR. MASSEY: We have people that are not qualified to
4 take these professional positions.

5 COMMISSIONER MOORE: They don't want anything but a
6 professional position?

7 MR. MASSEY: The people that we have hired right now
8 are working into -- from the bottom up; maids and also the
9 bartending and working their way up into the professional level.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. Dallas Massey,
11 Senior, that was Dallas Massey, Senior. Thank you so much, Mr.
12 Massey.

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