

1 MR. JOHN ALAN BORYK

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3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. John Alan Boryk.4 MR. BORYK: I live in Belvidere, Illinois which is
5 near Rockford, 70 miles west of here. I'm a United Methodist
6 pastor called to serve the wider community who does not take his
7 citizenship lightly. I also believe in our social principles
8 which state that gambling is a menace to society, among other
9 things.10 I'd like to speak to you about the work of dedicated
11 volunteers. In the fall of 1991 it came to the attention of the
12 community that a bill to expand gambling sponsored by our state
13 representative lost by only six votes in the Illinois
14 legislature. Years earlier the state lottery had been adopted
15 largely on the strength of senior representative E.J. Georgey
16 which garnered him the title Father of the Lottery.17 The lottery was created on the perceived hope that
18 the profits would bail out our troubled public schools. Few
19 opposed the lottery. The lottery is alive, though not growing
20 and our schools are still in trouble. So when we learned that
21 Representative Georgey had sponsored a bill to allow three video
22 lottery devices in every establishment that served liquor by the
23 drink, potentially bringing a casino into ever neighborhood, we
24 were alarmed. Our bishop came to Rockford to discuss the merits
25 of such an endeavor with the representative. The heated
26 discussion resulted in headlines, stating that Mr. Georgey called
27 our bishop, quote, "an agent of the underworld," unquote.28 It got the attention of a number of people and a
29 group called Enough is Enough was formed. This group, under the**NEAL R. GROSS**COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
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1 guidance of people such as Bob Holland who died recently, has met
2 since that time to learn about gambling. That December,
3 Representative Georgey and I were on a radio talk show discussing
4 the merits of the video lottery. A caller mentioned the
5 mesmerizing fascination the video games have on children. Mr.
6 Georgey acknowledged this, formed from his own grandchildren's
7 behavior, but video lottery games were introduced again but
8 Representative Georgey did not sign on as a sponsor. We came to
9 respect each other and grew in our understanding and our
10 differences.

11 We had other situations in which we noticed that
12 there would be a fly-in around the state. We were there to greet
13 the people respectively, to say there's another side to the
14 proposed casino for Chicago. Over the years I've learned much
15 about this issue that I cared little about formerly. I've seen
16 its destructive forces as I've talked with parishioners who
17 became addicted through easy access to a nearby gambling boat.

18 It's a puzzlement to me that an activity like
19 gambling, that once was declared illegal by governments, moved to
20 being regulated by governments and now is promoted by
21 governments. As a result a select few have become wealthy or
22 millionaires. Education has not improved its promise and there's
23 an increase in compulsive addictive gamblers. Thank you.

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