The Commission met in the Renaissance Park 55 Hotel, Barcelona II Room, 55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco, California, at 8:30 a.m., Kay C. James, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS:

KAY C. JAMES, Chairperson
J. TERRENCE LANNI
ROBERT LOESCHER
WILLIAM BIBLE
LEO MC CARTHY
PAUL MOORE
RICHARD LEONE
JAMES DOBSON
JOHN WILHELM

COMMISSION STAFF:

Valerie Rice
Doug Seay
Tim Kelly
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CHAIRPERSON JAMES: On behalf of my fellow commissioners, I’d like to welcome our audience in this room and declare that we do have a quorum to conduct our business. The purpose of our meeting today and tomorrow is to discuss and finalize the content of the Commission’s final report to Congress and to the President.

The format of our meeting today and tomorrow is designed to accomplish what I believe to be two significant tasks. First, the Commission will resolve outstanding issues regarding several recommendations that were tabled or remanded to subcommittees at our last meeting on May 17th and 18th in Washington, DC. These recommendations focused on future research, lotteries, and information related to Native American gambling.

We will then consider any proposed edits to the recommendations that were approved at that meeting. Finally, after our review of outstanding recommendation issues, we will consider any new recommendations commissioners may have developed since the last meeting.

The second and primary purpose of our final meeting here in San Francisco is to finalize and adopt the language which will appear in our final report to the President, and Congress, state governors, and tribal leaders. This activity will occupy the majority of our time over the next two days and is central to our efforts to produce a consensus document.

I will ask my fellow commissioners to exercise patience and to maintain their spirit of cooperation as we move through the substantial work that is before us. In terms of process, we will utilize the following steps to achieve our goals regarding the text of the final report.
First, prior to the start of our review of each chapter, I’ll poll commissioners to make certain you have taken the opportunity to provide staff all typographical or spelling correction in advance. Several of you have already provided these over the past week, allowing us to focus our time today and tomorrow on substance only. If there are any other edits of this sort, they must be provided to staff by the closing of each chapter discussion.

In other words, I really do hope that we can confine our time here to the substantive issues not line item edits of grammatical errors, spelling errors, typographical errors. I know that they’re there. Many of them we’ve already found but we don’t want to take our time with that today.

Secondly, I will ask commissioners to put forward their major substantive edits to each chapter. Forms were provided for these edits in your briefing books, and I trust that copies of your suggestions for each chapter have been provided to the staff so that they can be circulated among your fellow commissioners and the editing team.

We will then discuss the suggested changes in chronological order and bring each chapter to a point of consensus. I will then ask commissioners if there are any additional suggested changes to the text. Once consensus has been reached on the chapter, staff will immediately leave to begin incorporating the agreed-upon edits. A finalized copy of each chapter will be provided to you by the close of the day for you to review.

At the close of our discussion of the individual chapters we will then turn our focus to the executive summary. I
think this is especially important since the executive summary
will be based on a series of highlights from the individual
chapters. I think for a point of clarification and discussion
it’s important to remember if we change language in the chapter
that we will necessarily reflect a change that will happen in the
executive summary.

Prior to the beginning of our work there are several
other issues I’d like to mention. Several of you have asked when
the text of the report will be final, meaning no longer subject to
edits, and once this meeting concludes, the contractor will be
provided with the final text that we have agreed upon.

During the next week the contractor will format the
text, generate a blue-line for review. The blue-line will be
available in the DC office if any commissioner would like to
review it one final time. The blue-line represents the last
opportunity for commissioners to review what the document will
look like prior to printing.

Unless there is a serious typographical error, the
blue-line is not used as a point for additional editing, and I
will say ahead of time that I will resist any efforts to change
the document at that stage. In other words, we really want the
document completed when we leave here tomorrow. As I mentioned to
you in my briefing book cover memorandum of May 26th, no
individual commissioner edits will be made to the document after
June 3rd.

Finally, there’s one other item that we will discuss at
this meeting. Many of you have questions concerning activities
for the actual release of a final report. I would prefer to
settle these details tomorrow after our work with the report
concludes, however I am looking forward to an event together with all of you in Washington, DC two weeks from now.

The staff has made preliminary reservations at the National Press Club for a press conference on June 18th, and I will welcome any of your suggestions when we discuss this tomorrow, but I did want you to be thinking about it over night, and we will have that discussion tomorrow.

This has been a long road to get to where we are today, and I appreciate the cooperation that’s been exhibited in the very spirited discussion to date, and the general sense of respect for different view points that have been demonstrated by most all of our commissioners.

As I said at the beginning of the Commission, it is great to have differing opinions and view points, but despite any newspaper articles to the contrary, the amount that we agree upon far exceeds the number of things upon which we differ. I’m really hopeful that this spirit will remain with us in the next two days.

We’re here to discuss and debate issues of great importance to the American people. I encourage each commissioner to do so in a strong but civil manner. We do not have to agree with everything, nor does our document need to be a unanimous report, but if we come to this with the same spirit that brought us here, I’m confident that we can leave here tomorrow with a report that expresses our findings in a manner which is acceptable to every member of this Commission.