civil rights, our rights, and the Constitution.

We have, in my last statement, would like

for someone to look into this from the Justice

Department to support us.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

Mr. Stiegler.

MR. STIEGLER: Stiegler.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Stiegler.

MR. STIEGLER: My name is Doug Stiegler.

I'm the Director of the Family Protection Lobby in the
State of Maryland, represent families, about 15,000
people, in the state.

In several of our newsletters in the past
three years, we've addressed the gambling issue, and
in each one of those I've always gotten responses to
no casinos, no gambling, no expansion, and not one
that says, "We want it."

Does that mean that these people don't
gamble? I don't think so. They bet on the Super
Bowl. They bet their neighbor on the Super Bowl and
that kind of a thing. They go to bingo. They even go
to Atlantic City or Las Vegas.

But what it does mean is that they're opposed to it for several reasons, and one is moral decay. More and more young people are becoming addicted to gambling all over the country. There's a numbing of the social conscience. The message is: everybody's doing it. What's the big deal? Somebody's got to win. It might as well be me. Consequences for the gambling are not weighed.

The second is easy accessibility. Initially casinos were in a far away place. A conscious effort had to be made to go there. Most people are realizing that they don't want to have one of these on the way home from work. This could be a problem in their communities.

In the packet that I have prepared for you there are two quarterly reports from the Delaware Council on Gaming, Gaming Problems. The highlights show the increase in the number of calls to the Gambling Problem Commission and also that there are more females than males. Their main problem is with
slot machines and most of them are married, and this
is a family issue, and that's what concerns me and the
people that I represent.

Government promotion and encouragement is
the third thing that people are concerned with. They
see an example of the state lotteries, which we have
in Maryland. It started out that in the first year
the lottery in 1973 was one weekly game. It has
expanded every two to three years with little or no
legislative oversight. It just has taken hold because
it's been granted.

It now has a life of its own. There are
numerous instant games, scratch-off games, pick threes
played twice daily, pick fours twice daily. Lotto is
$1 million twice weekly game. Match five has expanded
to seven days a week. Keno is played every five
minutes, 19 hours a day in Maryland.

These games take in over $1 billion, and
they're predominantly from the lower income
communities. The lowest level of spending is from the
highest income counties.

With ads like these, and these are out of
the local Baltimore Sun, we can see that there's a
growing dependency from the state. These ads are paid
for with state dollars, taxpayer dollars.

The trend is that we want to see this
reversed at the state level and the local level where
government should be a protector and not a predator.

And I thank you all for being involved
with us in this issue.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Hollingsworth.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you very much.

I'm Pierre Hollingsworth of the NAACP of
Atlantic City and also a former city commissioner when
gaming was passed in the City of Atlantic City.

This year represents 21 years since the
passage of gaming in Atlantic City. Many of the
residents of Horace Bryant, Jr. Drive, the West Side,
Monroe, Venice Park, this same lagoon area supported
and voted for gaming for the job opportunities and
economic development that was presented.

Organizations throughout this threatened
area have adjusted to the traffic down Ohio Avenue,