sporting and entertainment benefits it provides to countless fans that this Commission understand the racing industry.

    We want to work with you over the next two years and the staff to insure that your report is complete and invaluable.

    In closing, we urge the Commission to hold a hearing dedicated to this industry so that we can have representatives report to you in more detail about our important and diverse industry, and we invited you to hold a hearing as part of a site visit to a major racing and breeding facility.

    Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mary Handley.

MS. HANDLEY: Hello. My name is Mary Handley. I'm a member of the citizens group in Dorchester County, Maryland, and we are dedicated to fighting any expansion or slots in our county, in our state, and in this nation.

    While casinos and slots are not legal in Maryland at this time, my community has been targeted by Harvey's Casino as a site for construction of a
multimillion dollar facility on the banks of the
Choptank River in Cambridge.

Their representatives, contractor Nathan
Landau and lobbyist Gerald Evans, are aggressively
pressuring our representatives, offering things like
all expenses paid trips to their facility in Iowa.
You can imagine how difficult it is for grassroots
organization to compete with this kind of information
gathering technique, and so I'm here for three reasons
today.

Number one, to ask for your help. We take
your job seriously as information gatherers. We are
watching you and waiting for you to deliver your final
product so that we can present it to our officials.
We want them to wait and make a truly informed
decision without the influence of lobbyists who do not
understand our community and who seek personal
profits.

Number two, I've come to deliver a
message, and the message is that in Dorchester County
and in cities across this country, citizens are
organized and networking to prevent the expansion of
gambling because we know the costs associated with the
negative aspects of this industry are just too much,
too expensive for our governments, our taxpayers to
bear.

And, number three, I've come to ask you a
question, and the question is: what are the numbers
that you need to hear as a committee to be convinced
that gambling is bad for America?

When it comes to gambling addiction,
gambling related bankruptcies, and gambling related
crime, I'd like to know how much is too much. You
see, not everyone is concerned about thousands of
addicted gamblers. Is a million enough?

In Iowa bankruptcies attributed to
gambling debt, that's 34 percent in one year. Is this
bad enough?

How many incidences of gambling related
crime would convince this committee that enough is
enough?

So, in other words, we would like to know
what is your criteria statistically speaking. WE're
all waiting for your answers. Those of us in
grassroots organizations are here today. We will be at every community meeting to discuss this topic until this fight is won, and we thank you for your effort and the time that you have placed with this committee to study this issue.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Leopold.

MR. LEOPOLD: Thank you, Madame Chairman.

I'm a state legislator from the State of Maryland. In 1963, the Maryland legislature passed legislation to phase out slot machines. That was to be accomplished over a five-year period.

In 1968, a bill was introduced to hold off that phase-out, to continue slot machines. The Senate Majority leader from Washington County was offered a $10,000 bribe to vote for that bill. Another legislator, a State Senator from my county, was also offered $5,000 in cash in an envelope outside the Senate chamber.

So the political link between slot machines and political corruption is very real, was very real in the State of Maryland in the 1960s. I do