are gambling, are being taught a message.

We need strong leadership in defining where we're heading in our society. Hopefully this Commission will make representations to address these issues.

There are no -- I'm sorry. There are no educational criterias (phonetic) in our schools today. There are no criterias in our school today.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Weed.

MR. WEED: We need to educate our children regarding this problem with these educators.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. -- Mr. --

MR. WEED: Doing nothing is not acceptable here.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much. I'm going to ask you to submit the rest of your comments for the record.

MR. WEED: It's already been submitted.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

Kathy Terrigino.

MS. TERRIGINO: Terrigino, yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Kathy.
MS. TERRIGINO: Madame Chairperson,
Commissioners, union brothers and sisters, friends and
neighbors, good evening.

My name is Kathy Terrigino, and I got my
first whiff of the Atlantic Ocean sitting in the back
seat of my father's '49 Ford. I've been hooked ever
since.

Of course in the 1950s, there were only
two places on earth: Philadelphia and the Jersey
shore. I still want to be on the beach on the 4th of
July and Broad Street for the Mummers Day parade on
New Year's Day.

Our fathers worked hard 50 weeks a year in
factories so that we could spend two weeks here in
July. We couldn't sleep the night before we left to
come here, and we stood on the beach and cried when we
had to go home.

As we grew up we saw Atlantic City become
old and vacant. We mourned its decline. We had such
fond memories of better times.

Now our city is rising like phoenix from
its own ashes, and it is solely because of the gaming
industry. It saved Atlantic City from certain death,
and it gave my family the chance to live a dream come
true.

If you'd like a comparison, go look at
Asbury Park. With Local 54 representation, we have a
contract insuring us fair pay for our hard work and
good health benefits for our children. We applaud
their hard work on our behalves and pledge our support
in the future.

We look forward to seeing some members go
from the back halls to city hall. My husband coined
that phrase.

When Mr. Bidwell asked what my affiliation
was, I said, "I live here." I am, however, a member
of Holy Spirit parish, the PTA of Our Ladies Star of
the Seas School, the Parents Advisory Council at the
high school, the Political Action Committee of Local

Yes, we live in the inlet, and it is the
best kept secret in the city. We have a great
neighborhood that is getting better all the time. We
live on the beach block with the ocean and Boardwalk
only steps away.

I wish that you would come in the summer
so that you could experience the real magic here. Our
children love it, and we love it.

Anyway, do we have some problems?

Absolutely. Can we solve them? Positively.

So while we appreciate your interest in
our progress, we really don't need any federal
intervention, and we certainly don't need any new
taxes.

In closing, if you feel you must do
something for us, just say a little prayer remembering
that prayer doesn't change things, but it changes
people, and people change things.

Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRMAN JAMES: We have lots of people
who want to speak tonight, and I really ask your
indulgence because think about that. She got applause
and somebody else didn't, and they're all excellent,
and we want to hear from everybody, and that really
eats into our time. So I'm going to please ask you