Way, other nonprofits, other businesses to work on them and address them.

I have been a United Way Executive Director for nine years, in two other states. I think it's important that you know I chose to move here. I saw outstanding community support from all the businesses, from the people, and from the casinos. I'm excited about the second wave. We're already working with these new casinos to see how we can address and make positive changes for our community.

The total economic and social impact of the casino industry in Atlantic County is enormous. As you go forward with your study, I encourage you to remember that whatever your findings may be, we are talking about the lives of people, people like you and me.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

Jim Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Good evening, Madame Chairman, Commissioners, and a special welcome to Mr. Lanni. I remember him from when he was running
Caesar's here in town, and I'm tickled to death to see you back.

Legalized gambling has had a positive impact on Atlantic City. In February of 1976 when I first became the business agent of the Painters Local 277, we had two men working, two. Everybody else was out of work.

Today that local has tripled its size. Ninety percent are employed today.

Through the '60s and early '70s, we watched an entire generation of young people leave this town. There wasn't any future here. Today, through the gambling industry, the best and the brightest remain at home. They enhance our community because they have a future in this area.

Back then most apprentice programs were closed down completely. Today the apprentice programs are thriving throughout the building trades. We're creating opportunities for minorities and females in nontraditional employment, and everybody is having a good time at it.

The casino industry creates and provides
jobs with above average wages and fringe benefits.

Our members are able to purchase homes, automobiles,
and the other niceties that enable us to enhance our
standard of living.

There shouldn't be any room left for the
debate on economic issue here. The figures speak for
themselves.

Now the moral question. For years
different levels of our government here in these
United States have placed their blessing on legalized
gambling in the form of parimutuel betting on horses
and dogs, state owned and operated lotteries, raffles
conducted by charitable organizations such as the
volunteer fire company, rescue squad, Little League
ball teams.

Government in the majority of states by
these actions has told us that gambling is good. Our
coaches have told us gambling is good. Leaders in the
community service groups have told us gambling is
good, and last but not least our churches have told us
that gambling is good.

Having once entered it, I don't believe
any of you can ever forget that great joy that was
heard above the roar of the crowd. It was called, "Bingo."

Any attempt to curtail the activity of
people pursuing enjoyment through a legal enterprise
surely must be immoral. An able bodied person willing
to work but having no job, I suggest to you, is more
immoral.

Killing is immoral. Even the needless
kill of a goose, especially the goose that lays the
golden egg.

So I say to you: we here in Atlantic City
stand opposed to any further regulation or taxation of
this industry, and we implore you please do not cook
our goose.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Harvey Fogel.

(Applause.)

MR. FOGEL: Thank you. Good evening.
I am a lifelong resident in the area and
now a Margate resident. I'm president of the New Jersey
Council on Compulsive Gambling, Director of the