

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

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

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

13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mary Handley.

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

20 While casinos and slots are not legal in
21 Maryland at this time, my community has been targeted
22 by Harvey's Casino as a site for construction of a

1 multimillion dollar facility on the banks of the
2 Choptank River in Cambridge.

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

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

19 Number two, I've come to deliver a
20 message, and the message is that in Dorchester County
21 and in cities across this country, citizens are
22 organized and networking to prevent the expansion of

1 gambling because we know the costs associated with the
2 negative aspects of this industry are just too much,
3 too expensive for our governments, our taxpayers to
4 bear.

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

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

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

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

20 So, in other words, we would like to know
21 what is your criteria statistically speaking. WE're
22 all waiting for your answers. Those of us in

1 grassroots organizations are here today. We will be
2 at every community meeting to discuss this topic until
3 this fight is won, and we thank you for your effort
4 and the time that you have placed with this committee
5 to study this issue.

6 Thank you very much for your time.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Leopold.

8 MR. LEOPOLD: Thank you, Madame Chairman.

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

13 In 1968, a bill was introduced to hold off
14 that phase-out, to continue slot machines. The Senate
15 Majority leader from Washington County was offered a
16 \$10,000 bribe to vote for that bill. Another
17 legislator, a State Senator from my county, was also
18 offered \$5,000 in cash in an envelope outside the
19 Senate chamber.

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