

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

1 not want to see that return as a fact of life in my
2 state.

3 On the issue of cannibalism, it's been
4 discussed by many. I endorse the findings of the
5 Maryland Restaurant Association. The Governor of
6 Illinois, Governor Edgar, has spoken about the ill
7 effects on other industries in the State of Illinois
8 from river boat gambling.

9 Before my committee, the House Ways and
10 Means Committee, testimony was received by the
11 Mississippi Restaurant Association it did not have a
12 deleterious effect on the restaurant industry in that
13 state.

14 This Commission could do a very important
15 service by getting the facts as to the impact on other
16 businesses, the deleterious effects on other business.
17 I happen to endorse the findings that it does have a
18 harmful effect, but it's this Commission's job to help
19 find that out.

20 Finally, legislation was introduced in the
21 Nebraska legislature earlier this year to allow states
22 that prohibit casino gambling to prohibit the

1 advertisement of casino gambling in their states. I'm
2 exploring that possibility in the State of Maryland.

3 I would like to see this Commission
4 endorse such legislation.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Jameson.

7 MR. JAMESON: Thank you, members of the
8 committee.

9 If you have this handout that I
10 distributed to you, you'll know where I'm from, Cecil
11 County, Maryland. It has a little map there, and
12 we're in the top right-hand corner of the state.

13 I'd like to tell you that I'm a born again
14 Christian, and that I believe in Jesus Christ, and
15 that gambling is a waste of money and, therefore,
16 prohibited by my faith because of stewardship.

17 I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I bring
18 you greetings from our Bishop, Peter Weaver, and the
19 Board of Church and Society of the Peninsula Delaware
20 Annual Conference, of which I am a member, and I'm a
21 resident of Cecil County, Maryland, and I also bring
22 you greetings from our Cecil County commissioners.