

1 My wife, who was forced out of banking by
2 the RTC, also holds a casino job as a nonunion cage
3 cashier.

4 Working in the casinos has enabled us to
5 see our daughter graduate from Stockton College and
6 pursue her Master's in social work, our son graduate
7 from basic training in the United States Marine Corps
8 as Honor Man and is stationed at Willow Grove Naval
9 Air Station as a Reserve in the military police. He
10 is also attending John Jay Criminal Justice School at
11 New York University with the intent of working one day
12 for the FBI.

13 So as you can see, as a casino worker, the
14 American dream is a reality for myself and my family,
15 and the stability it has given us is something I thank
16 God for every day.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

19 (Applause.0

20 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Don W.

21 DON W.: My name is Don W. I am a
22 compulsive gambler. I made my last bet on June 12th,

1 1980.

2 I'm 67 years old, and I'm going to give
3 you a quick thing of my life, and I'll do it in the
4 three minutes that you're allowing me.

5 Number one, when I was a kid about ten
6 years old, I used to pitch pennies, and every time I
7 pitched pennies I'd have to win all of the pennies or
8 lose all my money.

9 As I got older I went into the service.
10 On payday I was broke. I either had to shoot dice or
11 something like that. I always had this compulsion
12 inside me.

13 I got married when I was 21. When I got
14 married, it was the same thing. In 1965, it was my
15 first venture to Gamblers Anonymous. My wife says to
16 me, "Don, you have to go to Gamblers Anonymous because
17 you've got a gambling problem."

18 At that time I was very, very -- a few
19 thousand dollars in debt. I went to a meeting, and I
20 didn't stop gambling, and I got up and said I wasn't
21 gambling, but I still was.

22 In 1966, I hit a number for a fantastic

1 amount of money, and I had \$8,000 in cash -- I'll
2 never forget this as long as I live -- in my pocket in
3 the closet, and I had my utilities turned off for
4 nonpayment, my gas, electric, and water.

5 I lost that eventually. I went back April
6 13th, 1967. I stopped gambling for 21 months, and
7 then I went and I gambled again, very small, but I
8 went back.

9 Then I stopped in 1969, and I didn't
10 gamble for 11 years and 15 days. Never forget it.
11 February 1st, 1980, Don went back and started playing
12 the pickets (phonetic) again.

13 I started to gamble for about four months,
14 and then June of that year I had stopped again. The
15 one thing that I learned about compulsive gambling:
16 if you look at a 12 step book, the first step is we
17 admitted we were powerless over gambling, that our
18 lives had become unmanageable.

19 Now, anybody who has a compulsive gambling
20 problem should read one of those books, and it might
21 fall into their party -- into their problem.

22 And the other thing, a compulsive gambler,

1 there's not enough money for them to win. They just
2 want to win and win and win, and eventually the small
3 bets get bigger and bigger and bigger, and before you
4 know it you lose, and the only big hit a compulsive
5 gambler can have is going to GA because, please
6 believe me, if it wasn't for GA I would be a dead man
7 now.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

10 Tony Milillo.

11 MR. MILILLO: Milillo.

12 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Milillo. Thank you.

13 MR. MILILLO: Thank you.

14 My name is Tony Milillo. I'm the
15 president of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of
16 Pennsylvania.

17 We have been doing our best to meet the
18 needs of problem gamblers in the State of Pennsylvania
19 by providing a help line, educating health care
20 workers, and general community about compulsive
21 gambling, and building a coalition of supporters since
22 1983.