

1 DR. GERALD FORSHEY

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3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Dr. Gerald Forshey.

4 DR. FORSHEY: My name is Gerald Forshey and I'm a
5 retired professor of philosophy in the humanities in the City
6 Colleges of Chicago. One night I heard my State Senator explain
7 that gambling expansion was inevitable and if we wanted to
8 prosper we needed to get a boat in our district.

9 I grew up in Reno, Nevada, graduated from high school
10 there. We were there right from the beginning. My father was
11 working aboard a gambling ship off Long Beach when I was born.
12 Bill Harrah was living in a motor court on South Virginia and
13 running a bingo joint when I was in the fifth grade. Ray Smith's
14 dad had the biggest gambling operation in the nation. I think of
15 Don Turano as a running back at Reno High School, not as the
16 owner of the Eldorado and Legacy casinos. But how did that all
17 become inevitable, the wave of the future?

18 I left Reno because Miss Boomer and Mr. Finch taught
19 me about Shakespeare and Moliere and the Reno Little Theatre
20 never played them. I went to UCLA to watch great football games,
21 hear great minds give lectures and walk around with my eyes,
22 looking in the sky looking at great architecture. I spent last
23 Christmas in Reno with family and while that phoney battery of
24 neon lights may impress some, they depress me. If that's the
25 wave of the future, God pity us.

26 So when someone convinced our legislators it was the
27 wave of the future, it looked like a tidal wave of destruction to
28 me. When people talk about good jobs, I remember by dad taking
29 unpaid vacations in February when Donner Pass was closed off,

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1 working his days off for Memorial Day to Labor Day to earn extra
2 money and retiring with only Social Security as his pension.

3 In War and Peace, Leo Tolstoy tells a story of
4 another inevitability. For 15 years Napoleon mastered Europe.
5 His grand plan to unite Europe was inevitable. Russia was to be
6 his great victory. But what was inevitable did not come to pass.
7 The French occupied, then abandoned Moscow. The army followed
8 them back like a rear escort. Russian soldiers began to raid the
9 rear flanks and were joined by villagers, farmers and merchants
10 and craftsmen, falling on the French from everywhere.

11 What's so inevitable about gambling? They belly up
12 in New Orleans, in Davenport and on the Mississippi. State after
13 state turn them back. And there's the army of little people who
14 choose not to go on board the gambling boat. In a Vermont
15 countryside a mother pushing her infants in a stroller goes to
16 war. Other mothers in California fought an Indian casino which
17 wanted to use their children's school bus road as an access road.
18 A businessman in Missouri started a statewide campaign. A former
19 Chicago mobster visits college campuses to tell students how they
20 are targeted. They rise to attack the inevitable and I choose to
21 be on their side. I think my father would understand.

22 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

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