

Briefs and clips . . .

Gambling addiction continues to push trusted and otherwise model citizens to extraordinary behavior. This AP story is both classic and typical.

”SACRAMENTO -- A chronic gambler who acknowledged embezzling nearly \$1 million from the California State Employees Association will spend 30 months in a federal prison.

Gail S. Jones, 64, of Citrus Heights, was sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court. Jones, who has no previous criminal record, will surrender to federal authorities Jan. 9.

Jones, an 11-year employee of the association, said she lost the money in California and Nevada casinos. “She received the lowest possible sentence because she was cooperative, prosecutors said, and because federal sentencing guidelines allow leniency for people with gambling addictions. A judge ordered her to pay \$925,443 in restitution to the association, which represents 140,000 government employees in California.

“Jones handled cash management and investments and confessed to drawing 236 fraudulent checks since 1997 on three association accounts. In a plea bargaining statement, she said she hoped to return the embezzled money by winning it back at gambling tables.” <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/gaming/2003/dec/08/515985141.html>

The gambling industry has so far not volunteered to return any of the stolen funds.

MD - Richard Irish, former campaign treasurer and confidant of Baltimore County Councilman John Olszewski Sr., avoided a lengthy prison sentence yesterday by pleading guilty to stealing more than \$62,000 in campaign funds and falsifying campaign reports.

Irish was placed on five years' probation. In addition, \$500 a month will be garnished from his wages until

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Victory in Maine, but slot-track maven doesn't understand that part of "No!"

Three Maine communities have handed slot-infested racetracks resounding “No!” votes, but the profit-frenzied race hounds are still trying to find a community to bite! There's some part of the word “No!” They don't understand.

After Scarborough Main voters turned down a proposal to allow slots at their local track, the owner vowed to move it to a “friendlier community.” As 2003 closed, two target communities, Voters in Westbrook and Saco trounced proposals that would have allowed Scarborough Downs to operate a racino in their communities. The margin was 62 percent to 38 percent in Saco and 59 percent to 41 percent in Westbrook. Not one ward in either community voted in favor of a racetrack casino. <http://www.pressherald.com/news/state/031231racino.shtml>

Las Vegas interests spent millions in Maine last year, landing only permission to put slots in Bangor and Scarborough. Bangor voters agreed, but Scarborough did not. Bangor voters, says the largely victorious Casinos No! organization, were misled into believing 40 percent of slot revenues would go to community benefits, including a prescription drug program. As it turns out, only 40 percent of the state's 25 percent share of net customer losses will be contributed.

As is often the case with referenda, the ballot initiative is fraught with problems. Main law gives the legislature some leeway in fixing the problems, and the Governor has already drafted revisions to try to rein in the errant measure.

Proponents of subsidizing racetrack and horse owners with the public's casino losses will try to persuade legislators to ignore the law and give them more time to find a host that will accept them. The industry is closely watching the issue, since Maine was the only state in the nation to approve a new racetrack casino proposal. http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/01/05/racino_advocates_to_press_lawmakers/

But Maine's governor isn't likely to bend, according to local reports. The people of Maine have spoken loudly enough, and Casinos No! has decided to continue organizing and fundraising to defend the state from gambling expansion. The group even plans to discuss the possibility of repealing the measure that misled voters into inviting slots to Bangor.

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/state/040106casino.shtml>

Study shows casino counties had 14-35% higher bankruptcy rates

Casino industry spokesmen continue to assert there is no evidence of rising bankruptcy rates associated with gambling, but a report published in *Contemporary Economic Policy* (the policy journal of the Western Economic Association) in October 2002 proves otherwise.

The article, by John M. Barron, Michael E. Staten and Stephanie M. Wilshusen demonstrates “counties with gambling had a bankruptcy filing rate 18% higher than those without. Counties with more casinos had higher filing rates: counties with one to four gambling facilities (275) had a bankruptcy filing rate 14% higher than in counties without casinos. The rate for counties with five or more gambling outlets (23) was 35% higher than counties without gambling. Next, SMR noted that the counties with the highest bankruptcy rates in Nevada, New Jersey, California, and Connecticut were those in closest proximity to major casino gambling activity.”

Staten, from the Credit Research Center, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, said the study has not been amended since its publication last year.

The article abstract computes 1998 bankruptcies and calculates the effect casino gambling has had on bankruptcies nationwide. “To quantify the magnitude of the impact, the analysis predicts over a 5% decline in 1998 filing rates for counties surrounding a casino, and a 1% decline in the nationwide filing rate if one were to eliminate casino gambling.”

<http://www.msb.edu/prog/crc/pdf/WP63.pdf>

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he has paid nearly \$53,000 in restitution. Irish has repaid some of the money he stole, according to court documents.

"It was a fair sentence because Mr. Irish had no previous criminal record and it was clear that he stole the money to support his gambling habit," said the state prosecutor.

http://www.sunspot.net/news/local/bal-md-irish18dec18_0_4575997_story?coll=bal-pe-maryland

Jeffrey A. Richardson, 47, admitted in July that he burglarized and vandalized churches in Independence and Blue Springs, MO, including the burglary and arson that gutted the Colonial Hills Community of Christ church. He pleaded guilty to five counts of burglary and one count of second-degree arson.

Richardson said he did it to support a gambling habit.

Former Pastor Dave Byrn directed the reconstruction of the church, which required a complete gutting after the fire. The total reconstruction cost will hit around \$600,000. It's not all done yet. Glass still needs to go in the interior windows.

But it's come a long way.

http://www.examiner.net/stories/122203/new_122203006.shtml

The Niagra Falls casino is apparently taking its toll on Western New York bankruptcies. The phenomenon is predictable after a casino has been open four or five years.

"It's one last piece of bad financial news from a year that left many Western New Yorkers reeling. The region set a dubious one-year record in 2003, with 9,547 bankruptcy filings. That tops the previous record by almost 15 percent. And most of the cases were filed by individuals, as opposed to businesses.

"Several factors fueled the increase, bankruptcy experts say, including unemployment, rising health care costs, bankruptcy lawyer advertising, the aggressive marketing of credit cards and a new casino in Niagara Falls.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20040106/1023803.asp>

States may be waking up to insanity of track subsidies

The insanity of earmarking the gambling losses of voters and citizens to subsidize racetracks that can't survive on their own may finally be resonating in a few states. Bangor Maine was the only community to approve new slots at a racetrack, and that may have occurred largely because of misleading promotion. (See related story in this Bulletin.)

Rhode Island Gov. Donald L. Carcieri says he will introduce legislation the day his state's assembly convenes, to eliminate as of Jan. 31 what he calls "the taxpayer subsidy of owners of dog kennels at Lincoln Park. Eliminating the cut received by the dog owners has been a linchpin of Carcieri's budget plan since 2002, when he was a candidate using a dog as a campaign prop." When he became governor, Carcieri pushed to cut the kennel owners out of the divvy of VLT revenues from the park in his first budget. The governor wanted to erase the entire \$15 million slated to go to the owners under the "Fair Share Program" in the current budget, but the legislature was willing to cut it only to \$10 million."

He's going after the rest, and kennel owners are whining. An industry spokesman "painted the elimination of the payments to dog owners as 'the end of greyhound racing in Rhode Island.'" www.woonsocketcall.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=10746228&BRD=1712&PAG=461&dept_id=24361&rft=6

If he is correct, it could also bring to an end the breeding and killing of thousands of dogs whose lives are forfeited each year to facilitate the races. Greyhound advocates may have cause to smile in 2004! <http://www.grey2kusa.org/Racing/cruelty.html>

In Michigan, there's an attempt to sell racetrack slot subsidies as an "Agriculture Enhancement Package," but the local paper says it's more like "dressing up a pig."

The *Grand Rapids Press* editorial notes the racetrack industry "has yet to adequately explain the compelling state interest in propping it up. Michiganians don't lack for venues or ways to gamble. Between lottery tickets, new closed-circuit lottery games in bars, horse racing, American Indian casinos and non-Indian casinos, we're flooded with places to place bets. Gambling in Michigan is booming to the saturation point. It should be scaled back, not expanded." <http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-0/107331756390130.xml>

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Gambling expansion battles taking shape for 2004

Gambling industry spokesmen meeting last year in Las Vegas tried to paint a profitable picture for that city, as the strip turned once again to an "adults only" fare to recapture a fading market. They claimed the "What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas" paradigm has recovered the "high end" business, and international big losers are returning following the 9/11 disaster. Industry spokesmen also downplayed influence of burgeoning Indian casino competition from California, directly referring to free advertising the industry in getting from the new Las Vegas television show. "NBC probably won't put a show on its fall lineup called 'Indian Casino,'" cracked MGM Mirage's President and CFO Jim Murren. http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2003/Sep-18-Thu-2003/business/22186459.html

That being bragged, however, the industry financial wizards laid out their best hope for increased profits in the coming year – a one word strategy, "proliferation." Deutsche Bank analyst Marc Falcone claims "Gaming proliferation is a positive for Nevada because it spreads the distribution of gaming and introduces it to more (consumers). It makes it more accessible, it makes it more acceptable and it makes more people accustomed to it,"

"The spread of gambling is the best hope Nevada-based operators and slot machine manufacturers have to boost revenues and profitability in the next few years," gambling executives said during the expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center, as reported in the *Las Vegas Review Journal*. Though the industry knows they lost heavily in the past year, their motivation is strong to fund expansion.

Chuck Brooke, vice president of International Game Technology, warned that the industry is "captive to the political process," but said legislative and initiative petition action are "very dynamic right now." http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2003/Sep-18-Thu-2003/business/22185919.html

The economy, however, is turning and without extraordinary budget pressures, state legislators and voters are less likely to support expanded gambling, especially in an election year. The National Conference of State Legislatures, in a state budget update, recently reported states have closed a cumulative \$200 billion budget shortfall since fiscal 2001, with the cumulative gap now estimated at \$2.8 billion. Only 10 states were reported to still have budget gaps, compared with 31 states a year ago. www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/business/7583081.htm

The greatest public vulnerabilities to expanded gambling will be ballot initiatives and Indian casinos, since both circumvent normal legislative debate and process.

NCALG executive director Tom Grey noted "the major battleground states in 2004 - Kentucky, Ohio, Rhode Island and possibly Florida - will have initiatives on their ballots left over from legislative efforts to expand gambling that failed." In Ohio, legislators missed a deadline and failed to reach a compromise on a proposal to allow slots at the state's seven racetracks. Recently, however, the racetracks embraced an initiative for the November ballot, which Grey said may prove to be the biggest fight of all in 2004.

Some of the other states' more interesting issues include:

DELAWARE -- Delaware's lawmakers will return to work this month to consider a 2,000-slot casino on the Christina waterfront with promises of money for the state, the city of Wilmington and college scholarships. The proposal they're floating is a waterfront barge.

This is a new twist on interstate competition and over-the-line cash siphoning. Delaware gambling proponents are suggesting the state needs this casino "just in case" nearby Pennsylvania and Maryland should happen to approve slots. This newest proposal is also pioneering as it promises 47.5 percent of profits will be taken off the top for public causes. The state already has allowed slots at tracks, but the horse industry has siphoned off about \$369 million of gamblers' losses to keep their ponies running.

Apparently Delaware gamblers don't loose enough at the racetrack casinos to fund both schools and the stables.

"In the six months since Rep. Joe Di Pinto, R-Wilmington West, introduced bills that would legalize it, the project's leaders have been meeting with lawmakers, labor groups, educators and city leaders, selling the casino as a way to defend Delaware's bottom line from expected competition in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and pay for college tuition for needy students," reports the local press. <http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2003/12/14waterfrontcasin.html>

IDAHO – The Associated Press reports an initiative has been filed with the Idaho Secretary of State to legalize electronic gambling machines at race tracks statewide.

Though a group of northern Idaho gambling proponents submitted the proposition, the campaign is being handled by a Las Vegas investment banking firm called Bridge Capital Group. That group wants to allow counties of less than 100,000 populations to permit video gambling operations adjacent to their race tracks so long as those tracks have hosted races during at least three of the last five years.

Last year Idaho voters approved a referendum to exclude electronic gambling machines from the list of devices prohibited by the Idaho constitution. Gambling opponents haven't been able to raise the money needed to fund a court battle to challenge that initiative. It effectively circumvented the constitution without amending it.

This newest proposition needs nearly 41,000 registered voter signatures to make it onto the Nov. 2004 ballot, but gambling industry interests have traditionally paid parking lot barkers a dollar or more per signature to gather names. www.ktvb.com/news/localnews/ktvbn-dec1703-GamingInitiative_b14a7c99.html

Idaho panhandle towns are also pushing for local-option gambling in hopes of turning sparsely populated old mining towns into something more like Deadwood, S.D.

IOWA – The state racing and gaming commission will meet mid-month and may discuss lifting a moratorium on new casinos in Iowa. The commission has held its ground on new licenses, however, trying to extract guidance from the Iowa legislature.

Meanwhile, there is a pending Jan. 27 vote on a 120-acre "excursion" facility on a Franklin County lake west of Interstate 35 along Iowa Highway 3.

Iowa voters approved gambling in referenda in Worth, Black Hawk and Palo Alto and Wapello counties this year, but defeated one in Cerro Gordo County in September.

Whether the affirmative votes turn into casinos will depend on licenses which must be released by a commission that is seeking direction from the lawmakers. Some observers are predicting a major revision of Iowa gambling law during the upcoming session.

PENNSYLVANIA – A legislature divided on greed lines gave up on slots late last year and implemented a theretofore unthought-of means of funding their fractured budget – taxes. The 11th hour coup de grace was a suggestion that Indian casinos be included in the Pennsylvania's slots plot, and with that, the campaign crumbled. During the year, Gov. Ed Rendell's schemes to bring slot machine casinos to the state's racetracks was consistently sidelined by competing grabs from city parlor proponents and suggestions that the government itself should run casinos.

Gambling opponents ran a steady and effective campaign throughout the year, with their calls for sensibility being largely drowned -- by the gunfire of gambling proponents shooting down each others' vested schemes.

Atlantic City pundits heaved a sigh of at least temporary relief. "Pennsylvania legislators just missed the bull's-eye in their aim to legalize slot machines, giving Atlantic City casinos another competitive reprieve." There, gambling operators know competition in the northeastern states will impact their revenues, but they've already

hedged their bets. Some of them already own options on property in the Quaker state. <http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/business-casino/122303PASLOTS.html>

How long those options have to last is hard to say. Gov. Rendell insists that measures addressing both property tax reform and gambling expansion will be considered in January, within five or six work days after legislators return from their holiday break. Caucus leaders in both the House and Senate were close to a deal in the last session, he said, and simply ran out of time. www.post-gazette.com/cgi-bin/hbe.asp?id=144216 But the impetus is gone. Rendell fought for slots to cover a \$1 billion budget shortfall and to reduce property tax. The income tax increase resolved the budget problem, and took away the urgency of tax manipulation. Without an “emergency” drum to pound, Rendell will have to battle anti-gambling activists on the industry’s merits rather than on a hyperactive field of tax schemes.

Indians, however, may yet play the dark horses, as two “landless” Delaware tribes claiming ancestral roots in Pennsylvania are moving toward “Class II” casinos which the state can neither regulate nor tax. That maneuver is being fueled by a recent National Indian Regulatory Commission ruling which purports to legalize very slot-like pseudo bingo machines as Class II devices. (See *Bets Off Bulletin*, Vol.1, No. 5)

Currently, the tribes reside in Oklahoma, but have announced they have hired a real estate company to select sites for their Pennsylvania casinos. Local news reports say the Delaware Nation of Anadarko, Oklahoma and the Delaware Tribe of Bartlesville, OK, two federally recognized Indian tribes who once called Pennsylvania home, are looking for land upon which they may “pursue their right” to open Class II casinos in Pennsylvania. “Experts who have reviewed the Delawares’ claims are confident that the Tribe will be granted the right to conduct unlimited Class II gaming in Pennsylvania ‘probably sooner rather than later’ - and perhaps within 12 to 18 months,” according to the Delawares’ developer.

The tribes looking for sites on Pittsburgh’s North Shore and a spot in Lawrence County. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/03345/250030.stm>

CALIFORNIA – Vested gambling interests are cruising toward Sacramento’s legislative interchange at a pace that should make greed-lock inevitable.

Playing traffic cop at that intersection could prove the most demanding role yet for new California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. He faces a juggling act of at least 60,000 new slot machines, hopes to renovate compacts that won’t really expire until 2019, and dances the political high wire of the state’s booming race-based gambling monopoly.

Grey Davis is proving a tough act to follow, leaving behind a crippled budget and a burgeoning field of casinos that want neither to pay nor play by state rules. Some tribal casinos are accused of flaunting the state’s legendary environmental rules, traffic and building codes. The tribes turned out to be the leading contributors to two of Schwarzenegger’s election opponents and a major factor in the drive to retain Davis. They are the largest political power spenders in the state.

Schwarzenegger wants a Connecticut model where tribal casinos pay 25 percent of their customers’ losses to the state. That could be huge booty as California gamblers edge toward estimated \$10 billion annual losses. On the other side of the coin, tribes are reminding the new governor that Connecticut casinos, landed close to the massive New York market, are not limited to 2,000 slots each. They argue the west-coast casinos are already supposed to be paying a million or so dollars each to the community, plus regulatory fees and giving help to slot-less tribes.

California’s traditional “card rooms” and racetracks claim they’ve been dealt from the bottom of the deck as well and are proposing a stunning liberalization of gambling. Even for the plebiscite prone California electorate this is a dizzying complex plot. The issue is a ballot proposal dubbed the Gaming Revenue Act of 2004. It is scheduled to be on the November ballot if it can recruit the requisite number of signatures. It would germinate full-blown casinos off the reservations and into the domains of urban card clubs and racetracks.

Five racetracks would share 30,000 slots and 11 card clubs would share another 30,000. Some tracks and card rooms would be excluded from the plan, and participating casinos could receive tax breaks.

The proposal would, of course, break the tribal compacts since the tribes would no longer enjoy exclusive rein on the market.

Strangely, the proposal is submitted by the sheriffs of Los Angeles and Sacramento counties, and would occur if the tribes don’t pay the proposed 25 percent, according to early news analysis. www.presselegram.com/Stories/0_1413_204-21474-1861985_00.html

That’s not to say law enforcement is behind the measure. The state’s police chiefs and sheriffs voted to oppose the initiative and the police chief’s board voted unanimously to oppose it. <http://www.casinocitytimes.com/news/article.cfm?contentID=139835>

GEORGIA – Racetracks without attached casinos have been pleading poverty across the country for at least the past decade, yet a few Georgia legislators and horse breeders are trying to stick their collective noses into the pari-mutuel tent. This month, the Georgia House of Representatives is scheduled to consider a constitutional amendment to permit betting at racetracks and telecommunications outlets in the state. Backers hope to have the issue on the November ballot. <http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/todaysnews/newsview.asp?recno=40908&subsec=1>

INDIANA – The curious case of states subsidizing animal racing continues in Indianapolis as track owners vie for “electronic pull tabs,” devices very much like slot machines, to assuage their alleged poverty. The state used to have one race track, which it subsidized with \$11 million from riverboat casinos because the track wouldn’t make ends meet. Then they opened another race track and split the take from the riverboats. The tracks now claim they need the “pull tab” slots to make ends meet. Proponents are utilizing data from an Arizona study which demonstrates the quality of horse breeding and racing improves dramatically when tracks become casinos. They have not, apparently, cited studies on the resulting quality of life for the human race. <http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2003/12/21/wir-front-gamb1221-7212.html>

TEXAS – Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn thinks Texas needs to call a special legislative session to legalize slot-like video lottery terminals at dog and race tracks. At least three Texas Indian tribes agree, since the move would also give them rights to build casinos utilizing like devices. The state Attorney General contends a constitutional amendment would be required to bring the terminals to Texas. <http://news.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?xla=saen&xlb=180&xlc=1101338>

COLORADO – Billed as a “homecoming” for Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, a secretive program may be underway in the guise of reparations for the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado.

The *Rocky Mountain News* says it has unearthed a proposal by a highly successful investment group to build a \$100 million casino complex east of Denver. That’s after they acquire land and have it designated as a reservation for displaced tribes now living in Oklahoma, Montana and Wyoming. The tribes would receive an estimated \$1.1 billion in proceeds during the first 10 years, hiring preference for 1,454 jobs, and \$2 million to establish a Sand Creek Memorial at the National Park Service’s historic site in southeastern Colorado, according to the *News* report.

It’s an inventive machination in the face of Colorado’s overwhelming defeat of gambling expansion just last year. Colorado’s governor does not support gambling expansion, and Colorado’s U.S. Senators aren’t likely to either, particularly since the program is not Indian generated. Ben Nighthorse Campbell noted Indians consider it sacrilegious to connect the massacre to gambling. Developers envision the project as a means to settle reparations for the historic genocidal event. The president of the massacre’s descendants group, Steve Brady, responded, “Congress has admitted responsibility, and only Congress can settle the reparation - not through some overnight casino scheme.”

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/state/article/0_1299_DRMN_21_2542358_0.html and http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0_1413_36-53-1864320_00.html



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Gambling expansion big loser in 2003

For Immediate Release

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What a difference a year makes!

Gambling expansion in America went from a sure thing to a bad bet in 2003. As the year began, both gambling media and gambling analysts predicted a massive expansion of gambling to fill looming state budget deficits. Governors had just been elected on platforms calling for expanding gambling to anchor their proposed budgets, and pro-gambling lobbyists were crawling all over legislative chambers greasing the expansion skids. Since gambling was already embedded in 48 states, and with 47 states facing deficits, gambling expansion appeared as automatic as the house always winning.

Instead, the expansion crapped out, went bust and turned up a loser! In 30 states, 46 different expansions were proposed with 43 defeated or rejected. The only three that survived were a “slot barn” in Bangor Maine, a lone casino boat on Lake Patoka in Orange County Indiana, and 10 slot machines in Oregon, a state that already had thousands of slots and video lottery terminals.

This, the third wave of gambling in America’s history, had been heralded as inevitable – a veritable wave of the future – but by year’s end it had washed out. It became an undesirable receding tide! What happened?

Simply put, this current gambling surge couldn’t beat the boom-to-bust cycle of the previous two binges. Historical odds aren’t in favor of unlimited casino expansion. The truth was, and is, that gambling contains the seeds of its own destruction. States, like individuals, cannot gamble themselves rich. But they can, and have, gambled themselves poor, as demonstrated by Nevada’s \$870 million budget deficit in 2003. Expanding gambling is a futile exercise in chasing ones existing gambling losses! Gambling continues to demonstrate its failure to solve state’s budget problems.

Worse, the past decades’ wave of expansion had drowned communities in a wake of victims. Millions of Americans have become pathological and problem gamblers. This increased addiction has brought with it increased bankruptcies and increased crime. Promoters and politicians have pointed to gambling as a painless revenue stream but the body count after two decades of gambling is too high, too visible and too painful to ignore or discredit as “anecdotal!” 2003 was the year community leaders really began to acknowledge the destructive cost of gambling in their midst. It has become a public health concern.

Gambling itself has been proven fatally flawed, unable to deliver on its promise of economic salvation, and has been unable to maintain its facade as a mere entertainment venue, like sporting events and the movies. It has fallen to attacks from two disparate “G” factors: Greed and Good citizens. Every attempt to expand existing

gambling was fought by gambling interests that were already established. Greed versus greed created a pathetic spectacle of legislative greedlock that stopped a great deal of proposed gambling expansion.

But far more effective than the gambling industry's own greed was the collective power of good citizens who proved to be the real force behind this year's victories. These good citizens are concerned about economics justice.

They care about good public policy and they desire a better quality of life for their communities, their state and their nation. They are armed with the truth about gambling and fired by a commitment to declare, "Enough is enough!"

Determined resistance now greets each and every expansion effort.

With so much money at stake, we expect gambling promoters and their political hirelings will try and try again to use their money and political muscle to expand. But this year showed informed citizens will declare, "No Dice - No Deal!"

Tom Grey
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling



SCORECARD 2003

Gambling proponents attempted to legalize 46 expansions in 30 states in 2003, but grass roots anti-gambling forces **won 43** of those battles and **lost only 3**. We beat them in the courts, in the ballot boxes, and in the capitals.

Slot Machines at Racetracks 20-2

Defeated for 2003: Alabama, Arkansas Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. Slots were approved in Maine and approved for expansion in Oregon.

New Casinos 6-0,

Opening casinos in new states, defeated for 2003: Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Maine.

Expanding casinos 6-1

Bringing new casinos into states where they are already allowed, defeated for 2003: Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin. In Indiana, voters approved the Lake Patoka riverboat.

Lotteries 5-0

Defeated for 2003: Alaska, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Wyoming.

Convenience Gambling 6-0

Lottery machines in liquor stores, convenience stores, taverns, supermarkets, etc. Defeated for 2003: Arkansas, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Washington.

46 Battles in 30 states, 43 Wins, 3 Losses.