

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST LEGALIZED GAMBLING

100 Maryland Avenue NE – Room 311 – Washington DC 20002

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Christmas, 2005

Dear friends of NCALG,

One of the words I learned as an infantry officer in Vietnam was TACTICS. While generals plan strategy, it is the “boots on the ground” that win with good tactics. The success of every mission depended on a defined target, an assessment of our resources and a clear-cut plan to achieve our goal. Our target had to remain sharp, our resources adequate, and our tactics integrated into an overall plan.

As NCALG closes out another successful year and anticipates 2006, we need a strategy that builds on the past, assesses the present and aims to restore America’s common sense about the value of work, money management and future financial security. Our nation must stop chasing its financial losses with the empty promises of gambling. Congressional elections will be next year and then comes the possibility of a decisive victory in the 2008 presidential election.

The past year has produced good news. Three governors were elected in 2002 on their promises to solve their states’ financial needs through expanded gambling, but their fiscal pipe dreams went down to defeats. Governor Kathleen Sebelius promised Kansans that gambling would be the panacea for prosperity. Fortunately the citizens of Kansas were well organized in the aptly-named *Stand Up for Kansas*. Glenn Thompson is the hard working leader of this group that has developed active chapters in many of Kansas’s 105 counties. Slot machine legislation was introduced, debated, amended and re-amended, but the people finally prevailed, and defeated slots for both dog tracks as well as horseracing in the Sunflower State. *Stand Up for Kansas’* strategy worked.

Maryland’s Governor Robert Ehrlich promised slot machines at the state’s tracks. A bitter legislative battle ensued. I personally spoke to a number of local groups that vigorously protested expanded gambling in Maryland. Credit must go to *No Casino Maryland* – a grass root coalition of volunteers that *prevented* Maryland from the greedy clutches of the gambling industry.

Governor Edward Rendell campaigned on the promise of solving Pennsylvania’s financial problems with casinos. He finally persuaded a reluctant legislature to legalize casinos. A stench of corruption has followed backroom deals. No casinos are operating in Pennsylvania. 80% of Pennsylvania school boards have rejected participation in casino dollars.

I have great admiration for the new “Battle of Gettysburg.” 142 years after the first Gettysburg battle, a group of citizens of this tourist town, led by Susan Star Paddock, has organized *No Casino Gettysburg*, and is stopping the gambling promoters who want to turn Gettysburg into an East Coast gambling mecca. They have trans-formed a local village battle into a national referendum by enlisting the *Friends of the National Park at Gettysburg*, the *Civil*

War Preservation Trust, the *National Council of Churches* and the *National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling*.

These successes were followed by our 2004 victories in which California was one out of six states that voted against further expanded gambling. In November, California racetracks spent \$30,000,000 to persuade citizens to vote YES on Proposition 68, giving them slots. Indian tribes spend an equal amount in asking for 99-year compacts for their casinos (Prop 70). The *California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion*, led by the experienced organizer Harvey Chinn, distributed position papers against both gambling proposals to churches, newspapers, TV and radio stations. The results: 84% of California voters said NO to Proposition 68, and 76% voted against 99-year compacts for Indian casinos.

On November 8, 2005, opponents of gambling defeated proposals to construct a \$150 million casino and hotel in Yuba County, about 50 miles north of Sacramento. The final vote in Yuba County was 48.2% YES and 51.8% NO. On the same day, voters in Amador County, California, *turned down* a \$250 million casino and hotel by a vote of 16% YES and 84% NO.

Pat Loontjier heads Nebraska's *Gambling with the Good Life*. This group secured the support of Congressman Tom Osborne and Omaha's financier Warren Buffet. This group worked with political, civic, business and religious leadership and defeated efforts to turn Omaha into a Midwestern Las Vegas by a vote of 65% to 35%.

On October 12, 2005, the U.S. Department of Interior *rejected* the bids of the Schaghticoke and Eastern Pequot Indians to build casinos in Connecticut. This may be the end of "reservation shopping" now being proposed in other states. This long-awaited decision comes after years of claims, research and lawsuits. The Interior Department flatly concluded that the present tribes "are not the same community that existed before that time (1980)." Both tribes *failed* to prove that they had been continuously "an intact community with cultural and social interaction."

These victories are the result of hard work. In multiple communities, common people have seen the corruption of gambling and have rejected the efforts of politicians and promoters to saddle their communities with casinos and slot machines. One by one, we have won city, county and statewide votes against the expansion of gambling.

Our opposition has been the promoters, developers, and public relations personnel who have cajoled gullible lawmakers with promises of jobs, "economic engines," and generous campaign gifts. I have never observed ordinary citizens gathering at a state Capitol, asking for *more* gambling. No grassroots groups are requesting expanded gambling. Gambling proposals are universally manipulated by out-of-state vultures who descend on state Capitols with bundles of cash, promising easy wealth through casinos, slot machines, poker parlors, and the lure of the Internet.

To summarize, we have been *winning* local battles against gambling predators. I have battled in 49 states by the side of some of the best citizens in America against greedy gambling predators. I have thoroughly enjoyed joining in common cause with people who earn their living through hard work and honest dollars. I have talked about gambling on television and

radio, and have discovered a host of people who are making our country great and strong *without* slot machines and lottery tickets. We have won, and we *will* win again.

My vision for the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling is to harness the power of our fifty states and to win victories in our national Capitol. What has happened in state capitols must also happen in Washington, D.C. We need clear-cut leadership at the very top who will reject political contributions and build our society on effort and hard work. The flow of gambling contributions through political pipelines must end.

The American Gaming Association has offices in Washington, D.C. and a huge budget for lobbying and public relations. Their Executive Director is very well paid and has a staff to do research and to lobby bills. The greatest danger is the amount of gambling money being funneled to *both* parties. Such money results in the present spectacle of corporate conservatives such as Speaker Dennis Hastert, Representative Tom DeLay, Grover Norquist and Ralph Reed, all feasting off gambling dollars catered by lobbyist Jack Abramoff. At some point, the moral forces of our country must draw a line and say "NO."

Winning more local and state skirmishes must become the prelude to the big battle in the presidential primaries in 2008. For the first time in 56 years, there will be no sitting president or vice-president in contention for the presidency. The lack of leadership in past administrations has allowed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to act as a feeding trough for Indian gambling. The time is at hand to contact every candidate of *both* major political parties for a firm commitment against more gambling expansion.

When the primary debates begin, we will be in a position to ask pertinent questions of candidates about every aspect of gambling – including addictions, bankruptcies, crime, corruption and backroom deals. In key primary states, such as New Hampshire and Iowa, NCALG has active groups that will ask presidential candidates about the impact of gambling on the economy, personal bankruptcies and the corruption of government.

Already our forces in New Hampshire, Iowa and Florida, combined in a Sept 5th *Boston Globe* story to help Governor Mitt Romney "see the light" about opening the door to expanded gambling in Massachusetts. Stacey Cargill, the leader of Iowa's antigambling coalition *One Voice*, "provided the heat" by insuring that Gov. Romney's presidential efforts in Iowa would be derailed by any pro-gambling action.

On Sept, 15, Gov. Romney in a letter to the Boston Globe stated, "If someone would bring forth a gambling expansion proposal, it is not something I would support, given our economic circumstances and the social costs associated with gambling."

What happened in Illinois on October 27, 2005, illustrates the strategy NCALG needs to follow. Illinois has 9 riverboat casinos. At the end of October, the Illinois House of Representatives voted 67-42 to shut down all their riverboat casinos. Said Rep. John Bradley, of Marion, Illinois, "We did something today that nobody thought we'd ever be able to do. I think it's a great day for the state of Illinois." Rep. Michael Madigan of Chicago commented, "A small group of people became millionaires because of Illinois riverboat gaming." The

Associated Press quoted me; "The citizens believe the costs outweigh the benefits." We need to say this nationally.

Gambling carries the seeds of its own destruction. Gambling is economically non-productive. It produces no new products that add to the economy. Gambling drains enormous amounts of money from normal business. It enriches the few and impoverishes many. Gambling claims to be the source of easy wealth, painlessly acquired, but the end is poverty, bankruptcy and destitution. Gambling is bad business, bad politics and bad morals. Neither the state nor the nation can gamble itself rich.

Our country was built by pioneers who worked hard, drained the swamps, dug canals, tamed rivers and crossed mountains. They cultivated the soil, enjoyed their harvests and planned for the future. They sacrificed for their families and saved to invest in their children's future. Our nation reflected their values. They built upon a solid foundation of truth, honesty, fairness and good management of their resources.

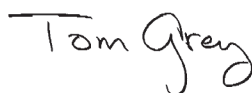
The very foundations of our nation are being attacked by predators who are replacing hard work and responsibility with easy wealth through the turn of the card or the pull of the slot machine handle. Gambling creates artificial and unnecessary risks. For multitudes the price is too high. Gambling transfers wealth to the clever, the charlatans, and the promoters who advertise instant wealth but deliver disappointment and personal tragedy. Gambling is not a foundation for a healthy society.

My *strategy* is two-fold. In 2006, NCALG and our state organizations must win every legislative and legal battle. I plan to travel and articulate our goals incessantly. The following year, NCALG aims to make gambling a national issue at every level of government, including Washington, D.C.

I am committed to getting every candidate for our nation's highest office to declare his or her freedom from the gambling lobby, and that we can restore the roots of hard work, character and values in our society. NCALG's strategy is to put gambling on the national agenda during the next presidential election. I plan to devote myself solely to serve as our national Field Director, while the Board is finding a new Executive Director. 2006 is an important year in this cause. The tide is turning. Our local and state victories are a prelude to a national victory in 2008.

I invite you to join in this crusade. Be vocal in your convictions about gambling. Share with others. Please use the enclosed enlistment card and envelope to send a meaningful contribution to NCALG. NCALG operates a lean organization. We need to pay all of our bills by the end of the year. It would be encouraging to have a war chest as we begin 2006. Vision plus strategy equals victories. Thank you in advance for your help.

Battle on,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Grey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Grey,

NCALG Field Director