

Camden City Asks Study For Legalized Gambling

By SARAH M. SANDERSON
 Of The Bulletin Staff

Camden City Council last night called on the state Legislature to appoint a commission to study the feasibility of establishing statewide pari-mutuel, off-track betting and other forms of legalized gambling.

The unanimously approved resolution, to be forwarded to the Legislature, was presented by Councilman John R. Marini and seconded by William Jenkins.

Each of the councilmen in turn voiced their support of statewide controlled legalized gambling.

The resolution notes that other states have legalized gambling and off-track betting. The local councilmen view legalized gambling as a means of releasing police and the courts for more necessary law enforcement duties.

Revenue now channeled to the underworld is viewed as a source of income to relieve property owners of increasing tax burdens to finance public services.

Council also approved an interim budget of about \$2 million. The interim budget provides operational funds until the city's official budget is approved by council.

Group Seeks Funds to Push For Gambling

Atlantic City—A group of 50 political, business and civic leaders was told last night that the Action Committee for Legalized Gambling will need \$2 million for a statewide educational program.

Meyer I. Segal, a committee leader, said this would be "a drop in the bucket" compared with the millions of dollars which would pour into state, county and city treasuries from the casino-type gambling.

Segal said the committee recommends that the gambling operations be rigidly regulated by committees which, according to plans, would be composed of educators, corporate business executives, state political leaders and clergymen.

In calling for legalized gambling here, Segal cited operations that are connected with gambling already, including flat and trotting races, church bingo games and stock market playing. He said local businessmen "gamble on the weather every year."

Max Malamut, owner of the Shelbourne Hotel where the meeting took place, said that within a 500-mile radius of the city there are 75 million people who would come here if the gambling is legalized.

Among those who spoke out in favor of the plan were Mayor Philip B. Robinson of Ventnor, city commissioners William T. Somers and Arthur W. Ponzio, Jr., and county freeholder Salvatore Consalido.

A donation of \$500 and another of \$150 were given to the committee for its work.

Group at Shore Starts Drive for Legal Gambling

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 2. — A group of 50 local businessmen meeting in the Shelbourne Hotel set out Thursday to raise \$2 million to launch a statewide campaign to back legalized gambling.

Mayor Philip B. Robinson, of nearby Ventnor, was the first contributor with a check for \$500.

The chairman of the businessmen's group, Meyer I. Segal, said the amount of money was necessary to launch a campaign throughout the state.

"This is peanuts," he said, "when you compare it to what will be brought into Atlantic City and the State."

INCREASE CITED

He said gambling would not only increase the economy of the resort, but would reduce property taxes, and money derived would be used for schools, health and welfare.

"We have nothing to offer tourists today," he added. "If we had legalized gambling we'd have people walking the boardwalk in tuxedos twelve months a year. We'd see prosperity like we have never seen before."

Another speaker, Gary Malamut, co-owner of the Shelbourne, said that with legalized gambling, "Atlantic City would be the greatest resort in the world."

75 MILLION PEOPLE

He said Atlantic City gaming tables would cater to 75 million people, or "one third of the population of the United States who live within a 500-mile radius."

Segal outlined a plan for legalized gambling that would be a "high scale operation."

He said the gaming tables would be operated with strict controls to "prevent unsavory elements from taking over."

"We are proposing two types of gambling boards," he said. "One would be a local gaming commission made up of clergymen and educators to oversee the people who would invest in the casinos."

COMMISSION CONTROL

"Also," he said, "a state gaming commission would have to have control over gambling throughout the state."

The businessmen said they would back a casino type of gambling operation only. Slot machines would not be permitted, and lotteries were not discussed.

Segal, who pointed out that

Gambling Ship

To The Editor:

In reference to the possible legalization of gambling in this resort, we propose the following idea.

Should the battleship New Jersey be decommissioned, this would be an ideal time to acquire this ship to be converted into a floating casino, to be permanently docked off of the coast of Atlantic City.

This unique attraction would be an ideal drawing card. Also refurbishing of this ship to the era of the gay nineties would be unequal to anything on the East Coast.

We hope that every citizen will back the drive to legalize gambling and finally make Atlantic City worthy of its name "The Playground of the World."

J. TRAVIS
 J. KOZEK