

# Poll Heavily In Favor of City Gaming

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Press Staff Writer

The chairman of the ACTION Committee for Legalized Gaming said Monday that results of a recent poll on the popularity of bringing legalized gaming to Atlantic City had been so favorable that the poll would now be conducted on a state-wide basis.

Meyer I. (Mike) Segal, head of the ACTION committee and former president of Ventnor City Council said that the latest results of ballots received in the mail showed participants favored legalized gaming in Atlantic City by a vote of approximately 1,100 to 35.

He emphasized that the returns were still incomplete and that more were expected in the mail throughout this week.

In addition, Segal said that 5,000 copies of the ballot had been printed and that copies could be obtained from himself, Gary Malamut of the Shelburne Hotel, or Maxwell (Sonny) Goldberg, co-owner of Howard Johnson's Motor Inn.

All three men are leaders of the ACTION committee.

## SOUNDING OPINION

"We'll continue running this ballot as long as we can," Segal said, "because it gives us a chance to see how the people feel about this vital subject. So far, the response has just been fantastic . . . just fantastic."

Segal also emphasized that the poll was not limited to citizens of Atlantic City.

"We want everyone to participate in this," he said. "Because everyone will eventually have to vote on the matter if it is to become law."

## PRESS BALLOT

The poll was conducted through a paid advertisement in last Thursday's Press. Voters were asked to clip, and mark a ballot which asked: "I favor the idea of legalized gaming in Atlantic City, N.J."

"This is really a significant number of voters when you stop

(Continued on Page 12)

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(Continued from Page 1)

to consider that each person had to be interested enough to clip the ballot, mark it, buy a six-cent stamp, and mail it to the committee," he said.

"I think if the question were on the ballot at a regular election, the vast majority of the silent voters in the case would overwhelmingly approve our plan," the business executive added.

Segal said that arrangements would have to be worked out with advertising departments at various newspapers around the state, and with The Press, but the ballot poll would definitely be conducted in the near future, both here and throughout the state.

## TWO MONTHS OLD

Segal and a group of local business leaders formed the ACTION Committee for Legalized Gambling approximately two months ago.

Their stated aim is to bring state-regulated casino-type gambling to Atlantic City. Under their announced plans, the group wants to have a very limited type of gambling that would come under extremely close supervision.

"We want to completely circumvent any unsavory element that might be associated with illegal gambling, or the type of gambling that is found in Las Vegas."

According to Segal, legalized gaming similar to that found in Puerto Rico would not only raise significant revenue for the city and state, but would also eliminate a major source of capital for organized crime—illegal gambling.

"Every major report on organized crime has stated that a major source of income for the underworld is illegal gambling. It is similar to the situation during the Prohibition of the 1920s. When something is outlawed, criminal elements see that it's made available—at a very high price," he added.

Segal and the ACTION committee are also scheduled to meet with approximately 50 civic and business leaders Thursday at 9 p.m. at the Shelburne Hotel.

Segal said the meeting would be closed to the public, but that a statement would be made at the conclusion of the closed-door session.

1968