

# Legalized Gambling Poll Is Being Taken

By FRED HAMILTON  
Press Staff Writer

Popular support for the move to bring legalized gaming to Atlantic City is being sampled through an advertisement carried in Thursday's Press.

The advertisement — paid for by the ACTION Committee for Legalized Gaming — included a ballot which asked readers to vote "Yes" or "No" to the question:

"I support the idea of legalized gaming for Atlantic City."

The head of the ACTION Committee, Meyer I. (Mike) Segal, of Ventnor, said Thursday night he expected a "good turnout."

"If the reception to the straw vote here in this newspaper's area is good, then we'll put similar ads in newspapers throughout the state," added the former president of the Ventnor City Council.

Eventually, the group hopes to have the Legislature approve a bill setting up a state-wide referendum on the question.

Segal said Thursday that he had already received several phone calls inquiring about the poll.

"I want to stress that this poll is being run for everyone," he said. "This isn't just for Atlantic City."

In addition, Segal said he was

having copies of The Press edition containing the ballot mailed to people throughout state at their request.

"We've always thought we had the necessary popular support to bring legalized gaming to Atlantic City," he said. "It's just a matter of organizing it and letting the legislators know just where their constituencies stand."

Segal, along with hotel owners Gary Malamut and Maxwell (Sonny) Goldberg, announced recently that they had been organizing the ACTION Committee for more than two months.

They claim the support of a large, diverse sector of the business community, as well as backing of many area politicians.

The group now plans on holding public meetings on the subject of legalized gaming sometime in January.

"We intend to show the people that gaming in Atlantic City is not only beneficial, but that it is really our financial savior."

Since the ACTION Committee opened its campaign here earlier this month, Segal said he has received thousands of phone calls and letters supporting the effort.

"It's just been fantastic," he said Thursday. "And we've really only just started."

# Views of Public Sought By Group on Plan for Atlantic City Gambling

By S. WILLIAM WHITE  
Of The Bulletin Staff

Atlantic City — The Action Committee for Legalized Gambling has started to sound out public opinion on proposed gambling here.

Meyer I. Segal, one of the leaders in the campaign and a former Ventnor councilman, said if it is found that the public is generally in favor of the project, the committee will ask the Legislature to put the question to statewide referendum.

The first step in testing the popularity, he said, was to place an advertisement in a local paper asking questions of citizens and thus taking a kind of straw vote.

## Questions Listed

Citizens are being asked these questions in the ad:

"Do you think legalized gam-

bling would lower taxes, would help build better roads and schools, establish a year-around economy in Atlantic City, would create more and better jobs with higher pay, would help stamp out crime connected with illegal gambling and would make Atlantic City a better place in which to live?"

Otherwise, the citizens are being asked whether they want the gambling. If the results are favorable, Segal said, "we'll put similar ads in newspapers throughout the state."

The committee launched the campaign for legalized gambling earlier this month. Since then, Segal said, he has received "many thousands" of phone calls and letters, the majority of which have supported the plan.

## Public Meetings

Segal said the committee hopes to have public meetings on the issue starting early next year in Atlantic City and then eventually to have them all over the state.

If the question reaches a referendum, approval by a majority of the voters in the state will be necessary to bring the gambling to Atlantic City.

Proposed is casino gambling of the type allowed in Las Vegas, Puerto Rico and London.