

DRAFT OF REMARKS FOR HARRIET

INTRODUCTION

Good Morning, and welcome to this brief treatise on the subject of deceptive usage of the English Language.

You may have noticed in recent years how common expressions have been changed by wordsmiths who have their own reasons for altering our perception of ordinary, well-understood words and phrases. For instance, a “grocery store” is now sometimes referred to as a “food emporium” – sounds classier, doesn’t it? Or have you noticed that the old movie houses we used to frequent are now “cinemas”, sounds classier, doesn’t it? Or how roadside bombs are called IED’s or improvised explosive devices, no matter, they still kill people in the same old way. And on and on it goes.

Lately, have you noticed that the operators of the casinos that are proliferating across the national landscape have changed the description of their palaces of pleasure from casino’s, to “destination casinos”, implying that there is something much, much more to be gained by a trip to their enticing location than slot machines and tables upon which to lose your money. And, of course, there is the ultimate change, that from the word gambling, to the more socially acceptable, fashionable and more benign word “Gaming”.

“Gaming”. It sounds like so much more fun, doesn’t it? Like hopscotch for the grade schooler, volleyball and softball for the teenager, tennis and golf for the young and middle aged, and bridge, checkers and chess for the older set. Games are just plain fun!

And, what greater fun could there be than the “game” of handing over your money to the casino operator for ten seconds worth of watching a spinning set of oranges, lemons or cherries – or whatever – in the hope that they will turn up three across in a row. Never a discussion, of course, of how much fun one experiences on the trip home while thinking about the extent of the losses incurred. How the bills will be paid next week. How you explain to your wife the need to borrow to pay the rent? Or, as has happened on occasion, how to explain the suicide note left from one whose addiction led to the embezzlement, the stealing of client funds or disintegration of a family. Some Game we are seeing played!

DOWN WHAT RHODE ISLAND ROAD

IS THE 'FUN' OF CASINOS LEADING US?

Currently, we have two and a half casinos in Rhode Island. Two private casinos, one at Twin Rivers in Lincoln and Newport Grand in Newport. The “half” refers to the intent of the Narragansett Indian Tribe to build a “destination casino” for “gaming” on land just a short distance from where we meet today, in Charlestown. if they can only convince the Supreme Court to go along.

And, parenthetically, isn't it interesting to note that just 18 months ago the citizens of R.I. voted overwhelmingly against changing our Constitution to allow Harrah's to operate a casino in West Warwick. Just look at how “long” it took the casino interests to bounce off the floor of that defeat, and appear in our face again. Proof, if it was ever needed, that they will never give up. Each time the issue is brought forth, opponents of gambling – not gaming - must struggle to raise the funds required to offset the millions of dollars available to the proponents. The gambling – not gaming – industry knows that they only have to win once and the battle is over. They know the odds, but no matter how long it takes or how much they have to spend, they are not about to quit.

WHAT IS RISC DOING?

From the outset, RISC has gone on record as opposing gambling in Rhode Island, i.e., casinos, destination casinos or whatever, including an extension of gambling – not gaming - as it existed when RISC was formed in 2003.

1. RISC has already campaigned to block efforts by the Narragansett Indian Tribe to seek Congressional repeal of the Chafee Amendment. The Chafee amendment, passed in 1994 (?), made it clear that the governmental jurisdiction of the State of Rhode Island applied to land owned by the Narragansetts. In short, they could not build a Casino unless the State of R.I. approved of those plans. RISC was a key player in efforts to oppose the repeal efforts. The publication I hold in my hand was prepared by RISC, with the aid of Bob Brink, a R.I. property owner and professional lobbyist in Washington D.C., who has contributed his time and talent pro bono. It is now our understanding that all four members of the R.I. Congressional delegation have gone on record as opposing repeal of the Chafee Amendment.

2. Through its daily publication of RISC-Y Business, we have published articles of interest to our members and those non-members who subscribe to that service on the subject of gambling. Included have been national, state and local

articles informing all of the dangers, evils and downright un-American activities of those who would foist gambling – not gaming – on every locality in America, if their intent is realized. By the way, RISC-Y Business is available to anyone who would like to receive it. All you have to do is give us your e-mail address, and you will be added to the mailing list. While we would obviously urge you to become a member of RISC, that is not a qualification to receive the publication.

3. Letters to the Editor have been submitted on a regular basis. We have a number of intelligent, dedicated members and friends who do not hesitate to make their views – and those of RISC known in Letters to the Editor of their local and statewide newspapers. These communications are important. We urge each of you to do the same. Make it clear that gambling is gambling, not a game, and that it is destroying lives, and the quality of life in every area of the State where it makes its impact known.

4. Likewise, on appropriate occasions, RISC has submitted opinion pieces to various publications setting forth our views on gambling – not gaming. In a number of instances these writings have appeared in local and statewide newspapers, and the comments received have been favorable.

5. Of extreme importance is the fact that RISC is appearing as a friend of the Court in the appeal to the Supreme Court and will submit an amicus brief on the appeal, setting forth our views on the critical issues to be argued. RISC Board members and friends have been generous in their financial support of this effort.

It is important to note that in our efforts before the Supreme Court we are joined by the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), a national organization that has long been in the forefront of opposition to the unchecked growth of Indian casinos across the country. This is not the time to discuss the matter in detail. However, we have with us today the two attorneys who have cooperated in the writing of the RISC amicus brief, our own general counsel, Bruce Goodsell, and from Phoenix, AZ. the consulting attorney with whom Bruce has collaborated, Lana Marcussen. I also understand that Carol Kelly, a member of the CERA Board and a victim of the takeover by an Indian Tribe of the land upon which she lived, is also here today. Carol has a remarkable story of her own to tell. And also here, is Joe Larisa, Attorney for the Town of Charlestown.

6. I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to another source of inspiration for the work RISC has undertaken in supporting an appeal to the Supreme Court. I know that some of you have received from RISC a copy of the

book “Going to Pieces” (hold in your hand). This startling revelation of what is going on across the country where Indian Tribes have been enabled to take over private lands, with the assistance and approval of the federal government, will – and should – cause a chill to run down the spine of every American who reads it. It is unbelievable – and I use that word advisedly – what our government has set in motion for the 526 Indian tribes that are now recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. If you truly want to understand what is going on behind the scenes, and what the Indian Tribes, their Casino operator enablers, and the officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs do not want you to know, read this book and pass it on to your neighbors. Copies are on the table at the back of the room and may be purchased, at cost, as you leave. You will find it an engrossing, but shocking revelation!

7. RISC has taken a leading role in bringing together organizations interested in attacking gambling to cooperate in working for solutions. Even as I speak, there is a peaceful sit-in taking place at Twin Rivers involving the Concerned Citizens Against Casino Gambling, and citizens from across R.I., joined by citizens of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. After having notified local police authorities in advance of their action, they are entering the Casino, placing money in the slot machines, but not pressing the button or activating the machine. They will simply sit there until management inquires as to why they are not playing. The leader of the action, who has led this kind of peaceful sit-in in the State of Washington, will indicate that they want to play but would like the answer to a series of questions concerning the odds of winning, why the odds are not posted on each machine, and a series of other questions concerning how the machines operate. When the police are inevitably called and request them to leave, they will do so without incident. Included in the group will be at least one reporter, The hope is that through this, and other such demonstrations, the public will be informed as to how the machines are built and calibrated to guarantee that the player must lose.

THE SOCIAL COST OF CASINO GAMBLING

[I DO NOT HAVE THE REPORT AVAILABLE. JUST PICK A FEW EXAMPLES TO SHOW HOW PROBLEMATIC IT IS. REFER TO THE REPORT AND WHERE PEOPLE CAN FIND IT -- WEBSITE IS ON THE BOOKLET YOU HAVE STRESS THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS IN CONNECTICUT AND THAT ITS INFORMATION RELATES TO TWO CASINOS VERY CLOSE TO R.I., AND SOUTH COUNTY IN PARTICULAR.]

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN GAMBLING (to be dropped if time does not permit)

It has been said that “Gambling corrupts everything it touches.” When government touches it, let alone embraces it, the route to corruption is clearly defined. Now before the Legislature are bills to extend gambling hours on weekends and holidays at Twin Rivers and Newport Grand, ostensibly so that the state’s huge operating deficit can be met. At best, the expected “take” will provide a miniscule part of the total deficit. For Lincoln and Newport taxpayers, however, the added costs of police, fire and other safety services will be substantially increased. We are told by bill sponsors that there will be no added drinking because the bars will continue to close at 1 a.m. How long will it be before the effort will be made to extend the gambling hours to include every day and to keep the bars open 24 hours a day? Wanna bet?

For RISC the decision is clear: Gaming or gambling, by whatever the name, wherever the Casino, only one outcome is certain: they win, we lose.