

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

OF NEVADA

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by
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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Gambling Tax Odds

Taxation has been a topic of public debate since 1217 when the Magna Charta stripped King John of this power and made it a privilege of the common council of the realm.

In Nevada recently, this continuing debate has included the merits of an initiative petition to raise gambling taxes. At the request of Lamar Lefevre, president of the Nevada Congress of Parents and Teachers, the state undertook a comprehensive study of how this proposed tax could effect all segments of the economy.

The studies covered 75 licensed gaming establishments and their related facilities, which together accounted for 96 percent of the entire gross volume of business done by the gaming industry last year. Their net profit was \$11.9 million.

Their direct gaming tax and fee payments to the state alone totaled almost \$15,000,000 while an approximately equal amount was remitted in direct gaming levies to federal, county and city governments.

Had the tax rates proposed in the initiative petition been in effect, the state's revenue from gambling theoretically would have been increased from about \$15,000,000 to about \$46,000,000. But the conclusion is erroneous because 43 of the 75 gaming establishments would have shown losses had the proposed tax rates been in existence during the year and the \$11.9 million net profit would instead have been a \$9.5 million loss.

It is argued by some that an increase in business taxes can be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices. This isn't a course available to our unique gaming industry, however, as mathematical odds determined by the traditional rules of a gambling game are not easily manipulated.

In view of the conversion of the industry's overall financial picture from a profit to a loss, the minimum three years it would take before the Legislature could make any adjustment in such a tax and in view of the industry's inability to pass tax increases

along to its patrons, it is doubtful that the 43 establishments reporting losses could long remain in business.

The 43 accounted during the year for 57 percent of the gaming industry's gross income from all sources, 60 percent of its payroll, 65 percent of its entertainment expenditures and 54 percent of the employment. If they were forced to close, the studies show there would have been 17,305 fewer jobs in the gaming industry alone, with a resulting loss in wages of more than \$82,000,000. There also would have been \$231,028,567 less to spend among the more than 1,000 other businessmen in Nevada who sell goods to the state's gaming licensees.

These figures apply only to the gaming industry. The effects would have been felt in every area of economic activity. While no one can say precisely what percentage of Nevada's business is generated by gaming and its tourism efforts, the studies were based on a conservative figure of 50 percent.

If 43 clubs went out of business, these were the indicated results: the loss of 47,520 jobs, the decline of 29,700 in school enrollment and the subsequent loss of 1,400 teaching and administrative positions, and a direct loss to the state general fund of \$8.5 million, of which, presumably two-thirds would be lost to education.

Virtually every Nevada resident would be hurt by such a blow to our tourist-oriented economy and the unprecedented progress and prosperity we are currently enjoying would be abruptly halted.

IS THE CHILD TOO YOUNG?

Sometimes we hear it said: "My child is only five years old; too young for formal religious school."

We would like to suggest that the child who doesn't start religious school with public kindergarten is being cheated far more than if he doesn't start in secular school. Indeed, the religious school is the most natural place for the nurturing of emotional stability. This, in turn, fosters self-sufficiency and secure social relationships. These are the very things to be mastered before "book learning." Where better than in the religious school?

We can take advantage of the early grades to spend more time for spontaneity of questioning; for the satisfactions of creative experiences. After the first years in religious school, the curriculum moves fast; the kind of enrichment possible in the earlier years evolves into that for which older children are ready. The needs of five-year-old children should be met at this age. It is in the youngest years that we give the child the sweetest experience in religious education -- by tapping his sense of wonder and poetry and reverence.

The child in his growth is eager and able and ready for us when he is five years old, and we at Temple are ready for him.

Let Us Rejoice

This writer cannot fully comprehend the reactions of Jewish leaders here and abroad to the Vatican's declaration absolving Jews of collective guilt in the death of Christ and deploring anti-Semitism.

Admittedly, it was a long time coming and was not as strong in its final version that passed by a vote of 1,763 to 250, as it was in its original draft at the opening session, but it was passed and that's what counts. Its passage, in this writer's humble opinion, creates a new era for Judaism in this world.

This new era for Jews is so awe-inspiring, so overwhelming, it will effect the future of everyone in our Faith, our children and grandchildren and those to come for ever more. The depth of the Ecumenical Council's decision, in retrospect, would have eliminated major causes for the perversions that have plagued the Jews for the past 2,000 years. Think of what it will do for the future.

It took the gravity of the loss of 6,000,000 Jews at the hands of Hitler to bring this important question to the attention of the Council, which meets about every 400 years. It is a binding mandate from the Pope to more than 400,000,000 Roman Catholic parishioners throughout the entire world. It means revision of text books teaching parochial school children a version of the death of Christ that will not spew anti-Semitism. At some time in the future, when these children become indoctrinated in the new teachings, every member of the Jewish Faith outside of the geographical confines of Israel, will be free of the abuses we have been made to suffer because of our religion.

The Vatican's decision means tempored Sermons in churches throughout the world and an enlightened version of the Passion Play enactments, that have caused so many emotional outbreaks in the past.

October 15, 1965, when the statement was voted in, should be a date marked for annual celebration, like Succoth, Passover, Shevouth, Purim, etc., in the opinion of this writer. It is a memorable occasion that calls for dancing in the streets. This recognition by the Catholics is of equally important stature in the structure of the history of Judaism as the founding of Israel as a nation. And what are the reactions of our Jewish leaders?

Generally, our leaders feel with "cautious optimism" that the historic document could open the door to unprecedented inter-religious amity and understanding only if proper methods are employed in its implementation. We find our prominent leaders bickering over words, the deletion of the word "decide" and the use of the word "deplore" instead of "condemn". There is a hesitation for total acceptance. "Let's wait," our leaders say, "and see how it turns out."

Both American Jewish Committee president Morris B. Abram and Rabbi Henry Siegman of the Synagogue Council of America, claim the chief concern now is how Catholic leadership will carry out the declaration. World Jewish Congress president Dr. Nahum Goldmann, regretted the serious weakening of the original draft in the passage concerning anti-Semitism. He said, "deploring instead of condemning anti-Semitism was a wholly inadequate formulation in the post-Nazi period." Dr. Joachim Prinz, American Jewish Congress president, said the efficaciousness of the statement in the end will be determined by the manner in which Catholic parishes carry it out in day-to-day practices. Dr. William Wexler, president of B'Nai Brith and co-chairman of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations, observed, "the true significance of the Ecumenical Council's statement will be determined by the practical effects it has on those to whom it addresses."

With due respect to the wisdom and ability of these chosen leaders in adopting a tongue-in-cheek attitude, this cautious, qualified acceptance is causing confusion and distraction at other levels of our practice of religion. Rabbis are postponing Sermons on this all-important event until clarification of views is firmly pronounced. Individual members of our Faith are injecting doubt in their reasoning. One told this writer the Pope had not signed the declaration. Here, an insignificant point of mechanical timing which will probably be an accomplished fact by the time this paper is published, is an important factor in the mind of one good Jew. It is improper and unfair for our leaders to create this impression.

Jewish communities, Jewish families and individual Jews are entitled to the unrestrained happiness and rejoicing that should go with the creation of this historic declaration that delivered, as described by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, "a lethal blow to the centuries-long disease of anti-Semitism."

In the vernacular of Las Vegas, the Jewish leaders are acting like the horse player, whose horse is ten lengths in front entering the stretch. The bettor is fearful whether the nag can hold out to win. After the horse runs away with the race the player is worried it will be disqualified. Its official, yes but will the mutual windows be open for the payoff? He's got the money in his pocket. Now he has doubts about getting home safely. Then he expresses regret the horse didn't pay a bigger price. Oh come now, where will this end?

We are a people of enduring belief in our Faith, not in blind obedience but with understanding. Our prayers throughout the year abound with grief for the suffering of our people during 57 centuries. The persecutions and pogroms are duly noted and respectfully observed in mournful

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Editorial Let's Grow Up

Too often we become so involved in a particular facet of an operation we lose track of the allover picture. This is more prevalent in volunteer work for a charitable or religious purpose than in other phases of normal associations in society.

Women especially, enthusiastically engaged in a particular function, devoting time and effort far beyond application they would consider for their own personal affairs, are usually the most blatant offenders.

While a devotee of a very worthy cause cannot be condemned for attempting to deliver the biggest, the best, the finest achievement ever performed, on occasion her over production proves a distraction. When she convinces members to leave another organization and join hers, she is committing a dis-service to both.

We are reminded of a suggestion from a gentle, elderly woman, that set us on the right track after we'd strayed into any over-abundance of effort in which we lost sight of the main purpose.

We had planned an event for the Lighthouse for the Blind, a most worthy and reputable charitable organization. Chauffered limousines had been engaged to bring a host of important newspapermen and other notables to the front door. A momentary traffic problem developed and our only concern was to afford every convenience to our invited guests.

At the precise time a regularly scheduled bus drove up to deliver a group of blind children. In the confusion, the bus could not get to the curb in front of the building. We felt a tap on our shoulder. It was the elderly woman receptionist, who had been employed at the Lighthouse for more than a score of years.

"Young man," she said, "what you are doing for our institution is a meritorious achievement and deserving of every cooperation -- except when it conflicts with the main purpose of our organization - the convenience and aid for the blind."

We saw her point and never violated that principle again. Folks, in your anxiety to support one or another of the groups, each, of course, dedicated to worthy and reputable causes, please do not overlook the Temple Beth Shalom itself and Judaism, for which it stands.

Each organization has a definite and clear cut purpose.

Competition is the spice of life, we all agree, but unfair practices will serve no benefit to any.

No one would ever cast aspersion on a volunteer worker giving all out performance for a particular organization. It is this type of worker who unwittingly, without full knowledge or conception of the harm that may ensue, who causes the disturbance.

Isn't it a bit silly to have all the alert workers as active members of one organization while another group is suffering for lack of participating members?

Let's stop being childish about this and all work together to make this the best all-around season for all organizations in the history of Las Vegas.

By the way, don't forget Oy Vey

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