

Governor Discusses State Assets, Programs

(Following is the third and concluding portion of a speech delivered by Gov. Grant Sawyer at a meeting of prominent attorneys in New York City.)

NEVADA'S SHARE OF THE LEGAL WAGERING MARKET is pretty small potatoes when compared to New York's. Last year, the State of New York collected about \$125 million in taxes from legalized wagering. This is 25 percent more than the State of Nevada has collected from this source in its entire 100-year history!

Actually, many states have a bigger stake in legalized gambling than we do in Nevada. There are at least 30 states which sanction some form of betting, some of which are illegal, even unconstitutional, in Nevada. New Hampshire has been in the headlines recently with its lottery, a form of gambling unconstitutional in our state. Dog racing, found in many places, is not tolerated by the people of Nevada.

Along with New York, there are five other states--California, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois and Massachusetts--that dwarf Nevada in gaming revenue. Nevada accounts for but 4 percent of the legal gaming revenue across the country.

Gambling in Nevada differs from other industries only in that it is subjected to tighter state control. I won't take the time here to detail the rigid administration of gambling laws in my state, but our success has won the approval of the highest law enforcement officials in the country. The honesty of our casinos has been cited by no less an authority than the district director of the Internal Revenue Service.

Important also, the presence of legalized gambling has presented no handicap to other industry. Extensive studies have shown that gambling has not affected employee absenteeism and turnover.

I have only briefly touched the highlights of the current activities in mining, agriculture, warehousing, manufacturing, aerospace programs, the military and tourism in Nevada, but along with these activities there have been some rapid changes in the whole complex of the state. For instance, Nevada has had the highest percentage of population growth since 1960 of the western states, with our major metropolitan area of Las Vegas ranking among the top four cities in the West in the percentage of growth. At the 1960 census, Nevada had 285,000 residents. Today we estimate our population has climbed past 450,000 Nevadans, an amazing 57 percent increase in just four short years.

Nevada's labor force has rapidly expanded. Today the total labor force stands at nearly

174,000. In 1960 the annual average totaled only 122,000. In one example of employment growth, construction employment increased from 7,700 in 1960 to 16,000 today.

Construction valuation in Nevada climbed from \$92 million in 1960 to \$277 million last year, the highest percentage of growth in the Far West. Bank deposits rose from the 1960 figure of \$440 million to \$616 million in 1963, while savings and loan capital in the state increased from \$46 million to \$400 million, a 750 percent jump in a three-year period.

NEVADANS ARE PLANNING AHEAD to meet the demands of the future. Cities and counties have organized and are following long range urban plans of development. These plans include proper land use patterns, developing new transportation facilities, creating new parks and recreational facilities, enlarging public utilities and public works facilities. The State Planning Board has developed master plans through 1980 for all state institutions, including both campuses of the University of Nevada, the capitol center, the prison, hospital and industrial schools.

Let me touch on a few of the programs now going on in the state to meet the demands of growth. At present 540 miles of interstate freeways are under construction in Nevada. We are past the midway point in our \$277 million interstate freeway program which started in 1956 and will be completed by 1972. This modern network of high speed highways will link Nevada with the National Interstate System. Preliminary work is now underway for a freeway program in our two metropolitan areas of Reno and Las Vegas. This work is part of a twenty-year transportation plan compatible with the general development of these two rapidly expanding urban areas. We are also hearing

completion of our \$82 million primary and secondary road construction program which will provide over 3,100 miles of new and improved state highways.

Nevadans are proud of their schools, and rightly so. The state ranks second in the nation in the number of persons who have high school educations. During the last ten year period, Nevada has ranked first in the nation in the total increase of school enrollment with 161.4 percent. Since 1960 Nevada's school enrollment has jumped from 64,000 to over 103,000.

The University of Nevada, with its two campuses in Las Vegas and Reno, is playing a major role in the growth and development of Nevada. Recent construction at both campuses has been extensive.

The University's Desert Research Institute has been established to aid private business and encourage industrial development. This unique institute conducts scientific research for both government agencies and private groups.

Expansion of the services of the First National Bank of Nevada is typical of the growth of financial institutions in the state. With its

(See SAWYER, page 13)

Rubon's Offers All-Stars

AN "ALL-STAR" COMBO composed of ABDUL KARIM at the organ, JIMMY COOK on tenor sax and GEORGE JENKINS on the drums is now holding forth six nights a week (and into the wee hours of the morning) at RUBEN'S SUPPER CLUB. The hot beat of this talented trio is attracting hep cats from near and far to the Owens and H Sts. rendezvous, where delicious food is offered discriminating diners 'round the clock. (Adv.)

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EASTERN STAR FEAST--Directly above are some of those who attended annual Christmas Dinner of Rose of Sharon Chapter 34, Order of Eastern Star, at Medina Temple. Included in photo are Mmes. Madge Sellers (Ruth); Ella Mae Dawson (Ada), Lassie Burns, 2nd Conductress; Jeanette Carr, treasurer; Paralee Bankhead and George Roberts. (Names in parenthesis indicate points of ritualistic star.) Upper photo shows (left to right seated) Ernestine Howard, warden; Ruby Amie, 1st conductress; Daisy Sullivan, acting chaplain; Luella Knuckles, worthy matron; Maureen Finch, secretary, and Alice Moore, marshal. Standing are Leola Gray (left) and Olivia Brown. Not shown is Daisy Bailey, chaplain.

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