

# from the CAPITOL

By GOV. GRANT SAWYER



NEVADA NO LONGER is entitled to the dubious distinction of being the "divorce capital" of the United States. This state more properly could be termed the nation's "marriage capital."

These facts will be emphasized during an hour-long documentary on American divorce filmed for TV presentation on "CBS Reports" this fall. The network show's camera crew completed several days of "shooting" in Nevada last week with an interview in my office.

A research paper was prepared by the governor's office, with cooperation from the Nevada State Library and the Nevada State Board of Health, as background for the interview. The report clearly shows why this state no longer can consider divorce a prime factor in its economy.

Over the last decade the annual number of divorces granted by Nevada courts rose by only 4 percent--from 9,586 in 1954-55 to 9,985 in 1963-64. The annual number of marriages increased by about 50 percent in the same period, from 50,553 to 75,713. Thus, Nevada is now registering more than seven marriages for every divorce. And while our divorce business has remained static, almost every other sector of business activity has soared.

During one five-year period in the last decade (1957 to 1961) the number of divorces actually declined. While the national divorce total was climbing from 381,000 in 1957 to 414,000 in 1961, a gain of about 9 percent, the number of divorces and annulments in Nevada declined from 9,249 to 8,223, a loss of 11 percent.

NEVADA HAS BEEN the object of much criticism because it requires only six weeks' residence before a court will assume jurisdiction over the divorce proceedings. However, there are many states which have a provision of six months or less. Idaho also has a six-week provision. Wyoming has a 60-day minimum. Arkansas requires 90 days. Utah sets three months, and Florida, Georgia, Maine and Oklahoma have a six-month residence requirement.

The most liberal jurisdiction, approved by the New York Court of Appeals in July, is the State of Chihuahua in the Republic of Mexico. There "residence" is acquired by the simple act of signing the Municipal Register of Residence and it is possible to secure a divorce in one day.

There long has been a conflict between the "easy divorce" states and the "hard divorce" states. Many of the "hard divorce" states are now being accused of allowing annulment to replace divorce.

The problem of divorce laws is likely to be with us for a long time. Many support a Uniform Divorce Law, but acceptable proposals have not been forthcoming.

It appears there is no national consensus on divorce requirements and each state must continue to handle the matter according to its own conscience and traditions.

NEVADA IS BUT ONE of some thirty states having some form of legal gambling, but our success in controlling and taxing casino wagering is unique in the United States. A look at just one aspect of the complex and comprehensive program of regulation and taxation, the licensing process, indicates why Nevada has been successful.

As a starting point, the law establishes that a Nevada gambling license is a revocable privilege rather than a vested right, which means that the people of this state MAY grant such licenses under certain strict conditions. One of these conditions is that applicants must prove their qualifications to hold gambling licenses in exhaustive examination by the State Gaming Control Board.

Each applicant for a nonrestricted license (casinos and slot machine arcades) must file complete personal history and financial statements with the Control Board together with a \$250 investigative fee. The applicant must then furnish any further information requested by the Control Board and pay additional investigative costs when necessary.

Failure or refusal to provide pertinent information is grounds for license denial and no license can be issued without prior payment of investigative costs. The investigation itself is conducted by the Control Board's professional staff members, most of whom are former FBI agents or have extensive law enforcement backgrounds.

FACTS ESTABLISHED by the detailed investigation, which can take from 30 to 60 days

(or longer) to complete, is submitted to the three-man Control Board for recommendation. Board members are Chairman Edward A. Olsen of Carson City, a veteran newsman; Ned A. Turner of Carson City, former clerk of the Nevada Supreme Court, and W. E. (Butch) Leyboldt of Las Vegas, former Clark County sheriff.

Next, the Control Board's recommendation goes to the parent Nevada Gaming Commission, which has final authority in all gambling control matters. Milton W. Keefer, a prominent Las Vegas attorney, is chairman of the five-man Commission. Members include James W. Hitchkiss, a Las Vegas businessman; Norman D. Brown, a Smith Valley rancher; F. E. (Pete) Walters, a Reno realtor, and Pete Petersen, retired Reno postmaster.

Approximately 22 percent of all nonrestricted applications are denied on grounds ranging from questionable personal background to inadequate or unsuitable financing. The Commission's decision is final.

Once licensed, the burden remains with casino owners to obey a strict set of rules and regulations governing their operations. Violations, such as cheating or associating with hoodlums, result in swift license revocation and possible loss of the owner's substantial financial investment.

All eight members of the Control Board and Commission are longtime Nevadans who know that strict but fair regulation of gaming is vital to the economic prosperity of our state.

*Grant Sawyer*

*School Shoes*

**KANIGANS**  
SHOES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The New Shoe Fashions For Youngsters' Back To School Wear!

Free! With Purchase  
THE FAMOUS  
RED GOOSE GOLDEN EGG

Priced From  
Only  
\$4.99 to \$8.99

Free! With Purchase  
EXCITING NEW  
HONKING GOOSE

**Vegas Village**  
SHOE STORES

STORE NO. 1  
1501 Las Vegas Blvd. N.  
Telephone 384-7015

STORE NO. 2  
955 East Sahara  
Telephone 735-0922

**Red Goose**  
SHOES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS  
WE PROFESSIONALLY FIT  
EVERY PAIR OF SHOES  
WE SELL

GENUINE

CONTENTS 12 FL. OZ.

**Budweiser**  
LAGER BEER

Brewed by our original process from the  
Choicest Hops, Rice and Best Barley Malt  
BREWED AND BOTTLED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF. U.S.A. BY  
*Anheuser-Busch, Inc.*  
ST. LOUIS NEWARK LOS ANGELES TAMPA

You can find out why  
Budweiser is the King of Beers  
by reading the label.  
But there's a better way to tell... pour it.  
that Bud... that's beer!