

Sweepstakes Lottery Proposed

LAS VEGAS--A state controlled "sweepstakes" lottery has been proposed by a group of Nevada citizens as a solution to the urgent need for a new source of state revenue, with subsequent relief from additional state taxes.

The lottery Petition is presently being circulated by the Silver State Sweepstakes, Ltd., a Nevada corporation, which was certified by Secretary of State John Koontz, April 27, 1965. The corporation is headed by William F. "Billy" Parker, president, Oklahoma-born Nevada resident for the past 25 years. Parker, following World War II service in the U.S. Army, was a former rodeo contestant, a Nevada casino executive and businessman.

"Because of the imminent possibilities of higher; more burdensome taxes for Nevada residents, necessary for the support of our schools, health and welfare programs, state institutions, highway maintenance, and the ever increasing cost of government", Parker declared, "Nevadans are urgently in need of a new means of providing an additional source of revenue for the state. We want the opportunity to put our sensible, painless and voluntary program before the voters", he said.

PARKER EXPLAINED that the plan offered by Silver State Sweepstakes, Ltd., would be state supervised and controlled, "and it will provide not only new jobs and the much needed money for the state", he added, "but, like the world famous Irish Sweepstakes, this new industry will create a new tourist boom for Nevada, giving a boost to the overall economy of business throughout the state".

The organization has opened offices at 1111 Las Vegas Blvd., So., Suite 230, Las Vegas, and preparations and supplies have been ordered to conduct a state-wide campaign to place the initiative on the ballot November 8, 1966.

Parker said the program presented by his organization is an improvement over the New Hampshire Lottery which began operations last year, which turned over to that state's educational fund \$2.7 million from 1964 lottery ticket sales. While anticipated success in New Hampshire was confirmed, due to cumbersome bureaucratic administration, the program is undergoing modifications designed to increase annual proceeds.

He said that other states, including New York, are considering lottery legislation. As a means of helping finance state operations, New Yorkers will vote on the constitutional amendment at the next general election. Backers of the New York plan say the state-wide lottery could yield 400 million annually for state aid to education.

IN A RECENT press statement, Nevada assemblyman James I. Gibson, chairman of the state ways and means committee, said that state operations are eating into Nevada Treasury cash reserves at a rate of \$1 million a year, "and, the 1967 legislature will need to provide a major tax increase to pay for existing programs", he said.

"Our program, based on a projection of Nevada tourist population of 25 million by 1969, could produce approximately \$17.5 million for education and other state needs, and yet, hold the current tax rate", Parker said. "Excessive and unreasonable taxes will destroy, not build, the economy of Nevada".

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