

nue was \$15 billion. That comes from four revenue streams: beverages, food, rooms, and gaming. Out of that \$15 billion, \$9 billion came from gaming alone.

So, when we look at just the gaming, out of that \$9 billion, \$6 billion came from coin-operated machines, which was not labor-intensive at all. This is people standing there and putting their money in machines. That's why you can walk in any of these places and you see these banks of slot machines and poker machines, video-poker, because they are the money machines.

They claim that the new tier of 11.25% would put them out of business. Of course, we say that's a lot of B.S.

EIR: This figure of 45 million people coming to Nevada every year: Is that growing or has it been pretty constant?

Neal: That's growing. It is up from about 41 million in 1999.

EIR: I would guess that with the "new economy," gambling would be increasing.

Neal: Thirty-six million of those actually come into Clark County, which you probably know as the Las Vegas area.

EIR: So, they're trying to take the seat away from you and stop you from gathering these petitions?

Neal: Right, because they know that when we get back into the next session, that either I'll get the signatures or I'll probably introduce a bill, or be in a position to amend any type of legislation that might come through there.

EIR: When does the next session open?

Neal: Feb. 1, 2001.

EIR: So how long do you have to gather the signatures?

Neal: The deadline is Nov. 14. We're scrambling to try to get the signatures in.

EIR: Is there anything else our readers should know about this?

Neal: They've financed Clinton very well, and, of course, the press has noted that.

EIR: What's his background?

Neal: He's a young lawyer who was admitted to the bar in October 1999, a young kid about 28 years of age. That's it.

EIR: He has no credentials to run for state Senate?

Neal: No, no credentials whatsoever.

EIR: So the gamers are afraid of you because you have a lot of leverage in the Senate?

Neal: Not only that. I'm also the most knowledgeable person you can have, with rules and regulations, that govern the Senate.

Interview: Steve Young

Gambling in Atlantic City: The Human Toll

Mr. Young is Commissioner, Atlantic City, New Jersey Housing Authority. He spoke with Marianna Wertz on Oct. 4.

EIR: We will discuss the housing crisis that you see from your position as Commissioner of the Atlantic City Housing Authority. Tell us what is going on there.

Young: Well, this is a unique place. Atlantic City, as you may know, has casino gambling — New Jersey was the second state to have it — which is basically an experiment, because, unlike Vegas, we have people living here, with families, and it's a smaller city than just vacant land like Vegas was. So, there's not too much land to go around, for building casinos or hotels, which caused a very serious problem.

One problem was, that Atlantic City was going down before there was casino gambling, and needed something to establish some revenue in the community. But when the casinos got here, they not only had casinos, but they had hotels, restaurants, shops inside the casino facility. What that did, was eliminate a lot of local stores, mom-and-pop stores, of people that had been struggling to make it for their families.

EIR: Like a K-Mart moving into your neighborhood.

Young: Exactly. Another thing: We have what they call a Casino Investment Redevelopment Authority, which is an authority that's governed by the state. That money is supposed to come back into the community to redevelop it, especially for housing. What we're finding, is that most of those houses are very unaffordable to low-income people; that came along with the welfare-to-work program; a lot of low-income people in public housing were told that they would have to get a job. Well, with the casino industry, there's no job security there. Most of the people went to that agency [casino employment]. As a result of that, we have a lot of public housing that's been demolished. There's no more one-for-one replacement of housing. (What I mean by that, is that if you demolish one, you have to build another.) HUD [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] got rid of that, and because of that, we do not have enough housing to go around, and our waiting lists are very, very long.

EIR: This is true all over the country.

Young: Yes. What happens is that you have a lot of overcrowding of residents, people staying with relatives, not

reporting, things like that, just to be able to make it.

EIR: Can you give me any figures, specifics on that? How many homeless people do you have, per night?

Young: We have what is called Atlantic City Rescue Mission, which is overcrowded. It's not enough. There are not enough women's shelters, or family shelters here—I would say by hundreds, not enough.

EIR: And they're not building new public housing as they tear it down?

Young: No. No more one-for-one replacement.

EIR: Are they building high-priced condominiums?

Young: Very much so. And houses. They just built some houses that cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 each.

EIR: And these are not for employees of the gambling casino, but for whom? Who's buying them?

Young: That's a good question. No one here is buying them. From my understanding, the people from the suburbs are now moving back in; so, the interest rate for the fair market value of most of the houses, if they build these \$300,000 to \$500,000 houses around a low-income area, what happens is that the value of those people's houses go up, their taxes go up, and they cannot afford it. So, they either have to bring their house up to standard, which costs a lot of money, or abandon the house.

EIR: We see this going on in many places now. We've referred to it as ethnic cleansing.

Young: That's exactly what it is.

EIR: Joseph Neal, head of the Senate Black Caucus in the state of Nevada, has just introduced a bill, for which they are trying to destroy him, which would increase the taxation on the gambling industry in Nevada, to help pay for the problems the gaming industry brings into Nevada. They have 45 million people per year who come to Las Vegas from out of state to gamble, and the services for those people are not paid for, except by local taxes.

Young: Right. We have 30 million that come here.

EIR: So you are the second-largest in the country.

Young: Yes. And we have between 40,000 and 50,000 casino employees. And our population is only 38,000. So, the only people to increase employment in this community, usually, is the police department.

EIR: When did the gaming industry first move into Atlantic City?

Young: 1978.

EIR: This coheres with what happened in America, begin-

ning in 1971, when Richard Nixon ended the Bretton Woods system—took the dollar off gold and allowed currencies to float. We began to get an economy based on gambling and speculation, and this was one of the first places where that happened. The Indian reservations started it up then; and increasingly, the industrial base of the country was eroded, and has been replaced with services associated with gambling and speculation. In the article in *EIR* that you read ["Hyperinflationary Price Explosion Is Destroying America," Sept. 15, 2000], we said that when you do that to an economy, you engender an inflationary tendency, because you are not creating real wealth, you're simply circulating money; that's what gambling does.

What happens to the people in this process?

Young: What's happening here, is that the casinos often say that they have a lot of "underemployable people." What that means is, that they probably have a drug problem, or they have a problem with day care, or problem with coming to work; so, their employment status is "hard to hire." This is a majority of the black community, and that causes a lot of crime among youth and a lot of families. This is a very drug-infested community.

EIR: That comes from gaming?

Young: Correct. And if they can't get a job, they will deal drugs, or some type of crime.

EIR: Do you also see a growth in the use of video gaming by the kids, the more violent such games?

Young: There's no time for family entertainment for the community here, at all. Everything else was taken away when casino gambling came here. There are no movie theaters, no pool halls, no recreational activities for families, or for youth. So, that idle time leads them to walk on the Boardwalk, to do destructive things.

EIR: What are the names of the people who run the gambling casinos?

Young: Donald Trump. You have Bally's casino; you have Harrod's; you have MGM, which just came here and bought out the Mirage; you have Caesar's.

EIR: That reminds one of where this all came from—the Roman Empire—

Young: The Roman Empire, that's correct.

EIR: What Mr. LaRouche has repeatedly said, is that we are going into a replay of the Roman Empire's bread-and-circuses attempt to keep people pacified while the whole world goes into Hell, and no one's looking.

Young: That is a correct statement. No one's looking.

EIR: Have you, or has anyone you know of there, raised these issues in the Presidential campaign?

Young: What a wonder you say that. No, and I wouldn't think they would.

EIR: In Jackson, Mississippi, and in Las Vegas, they are facing exactly the same thing.

Young: There was a Gaming Commission hearing, of that panel, at the Congressional Black Caucus [Conference] when I was there, and I told them, as a resident of Atlantic City, exactly how I feel. I recently sued the governing body, called the Casino Control Commission, which supposedly governs the status of casinos, to fine them or hold them accountable as to what they are supposed to provide to the community and to residents; and they are not meeting those guidelines. So, I recently sued them for that.

EIR: Is that suit now in court?

Young: Yes, and wait until you hear what happened: The judge rules that it was against the 11th Amendment to the Constitution for me to sue them. The state has immunity from being sued [in Federal court] by one of its own citizens. I think everybody should study that one [the 11th Amendment], because that says that you cannot sue a state; that means we all are slaves to a state! You can sue an individual entity—I could have gone after each individual casino—but as far the state is concerned, they have immunity from being sued. And I actually challenged that, that either Congress would have to waive that, or the state would have to give you permission to sue them.

EIR: In many parts of the country where they haven't introduced gaming, they have built prisons, as the growth industry in town.

Young: That's a matter of fact: We have more juveniles, and a great increase of juveniles, with records, especially in this community. And we have an enormous amount of deaths by shootings among our juveniles. The guns are on the street (like they don't know who put them there), and there are a lot of killings among our youth, and I mean under the age of 18.

EIR: Has this come in with the gambling casinos?

Young: That is correct. These young men stop me all the time, and ask me for employment, a job: Where can I go for this or that? There are no opportunities here, basically, or things for them to do. And if most of them have records, they're not going to hire them anyway.

EIR: On your background: How old are you?

Young: I'm 40 years old. I've been fighting for the last 20 years for housing. This building that I'm in now, is on Virginia Avenue, a block away from the Taj Mahal [casino], and I fought for housing here in 1986—I blocked off the street. As a tenant organization, we organized to purchase a building. We were crossed by the powers that be at that time; we held the

street for eight hours, with trash cans barricading the street, so that no one could get to the casino. They called the SWAT team in. Are you familiar with MOVE, the situation in Philadelphia?

EIR: Yes.

Young: We had the same exact thing a year later, after they bombed MOVE: helicopters flying, fire department outside; I was actually conducting negotiations with the SWAT team on the telephone. It was 100-some degrees outside. I was not the Commissioner [of Housing] at that time. What happened as a result of that, is that they finally said that if we would take the barricades away, we would be able to stay in this building, or they would relocate us to something decent and affordable, and that no one would be arrested. The next morning they came and arrested me; my bail was a quarter-million dollars cash. Because they arrested me, the community got in an uproar, and they then dismissed it and said it was excessive bail; and I had to do 30 days in jail for a misdemeanor. And I told them, if I had a chance to do it again, I would do it again, because the building is now rehabbed, totally fixed up, and a beautiful building—a beautiful example for Atlantic City. And now, after about 15 years, they come again, and say that the building is going to be foreclosed, HUD is going to foreclose on it. And that is where we are at today.

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