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PUBLIC HEARING

before

ASSEMBLY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

on

THE PROMOTION AND CONDUCT OF BOXING MATCHES IN NEW JERSEY

Held:
January 19, 1983
Belleville Town Hall
Belleville, New Jersey

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Assemblyman Buddy Fortunato, Chairman
Assemblyman S. M. Terry LaCorte

ALSO PRESENT:

Wayne L. Bockelman, Team Supervisor
Office of Legislative Services
Aide, Assembly Independent Authorities
and Commissions Committee

New Jersey State Library

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ASSEMBLYMAN BUDDY FORTUNATO (CHAIRMAN): Good morning. My name is Buddy Fortunato. To my right is Assemblyman Terry LaCorte. We represent the Assembly Independent Authorities and Commissions Committee, of which I am Chairman. The purpose of this meeting this morning is to find out information concerning the profession of boxing, from the promotion of boxing to licensing, and to the actual conduct in the ring.

Since Atlantic City has become the capital of boxing, I think, in the world, we felt it incumbent that this Committee make sure that the State of New Jersey is following the proper procedure and that the conduct of boxing in the State is being promoted properly, and I do not mean that from the actual promotion of the fight.

We have very recognizable people here this morning to discuss boxing, and we are looking forward to hearing what they have to say, because we hope that from this hearing, and future hearings which we intend to conduct, we will be able to put together the proper framework for the conduct of boxing and the necessary improvements of boxing in the State.

The first person we would like to hear from this morning is Mr. Ray Arcel. Mr. Arcel, can you tell us a little about yourself?

MR. ARCEL: Beg pardon?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Can you fill us in with a little background about yourself?

R A Y A R C E L: Yes. My name is Ray Arcel. I have been in professional boxing for sixty-five years. I started in 1917. I was always a trainer and developer of talent, and I trained and developed nineteen world champions. My career in boxing has been outstanding, if I must say so myself, because my interests lay in the good and welfare of the boxer I work with. Nothing was more important to me.

We worked and trained and starved through the depression years when boxing was a luxury sport and nobody had enough money to buy a loaf of bread, let alone go to fights. But, we kept on working. Our prime objective, as I said, was the welfare of the boxer. We took care of him. We trained him and watched him and taught him, and we developed mental energy and self-control. I think we did a good job in those years.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Arcel, if you were in a position to institute improvements in the profession, where would you begin?

MR. ARCEL: Where would I what?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Where would you begin to institute changes, improvements in the profession? Would it be in the medical attention that one receives, the criteria of licensing of a trainer or people who are referred to as "seconds" in the corner? What would you like to see?

MR. ARCEL: Well, I would like to see capable people handling fighters. Of course, I know you have capable people in the State. I mean, I went over and visited Duva's training quarters, and I never saw a better gymnasium. He has capable people there but, unfortunately, they are just in the minority. There are too many young kids being exploited.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Do you think there should be some type of uniformity or criteria --

MR. ARCEL: Unfortunately, I have to interrupt you, because my hearing has gone bad over the past year and I don't hear very well.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Okay, I'll speak a little bit louder then. Do

you feel that there should be some criteria that a training facility, a gymnasium should be required to exhibit?

MR. ARCEL: Well, if a young man has proper training facilities and he has the proper people behind him, then they will watch him; they will not exploit him. If the dollar bill is more important than the good and welfare of the fighter, then that is very bad. Unfortunately, today, boxing is controlled by the networks; networks control the destiny of the whole industry. Without the sponsoring and without the big money that these networks put up, you probably couldn't have any boxing. Unfortunately, not too many of the boys are given an opportunity to develop their skills. They are thrown into important matches long before they ever reach the peak of their trade. This is a tough, hard business; the trials and tribulations are hard.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I know the Committee, Mr. Arcel, has discussed the possibility of the novice fighter having to fight a certain amount of four-round fights, then moving to the six-round category, and so on, with those fights being composed of two-minute rounds. Do you have any feeling about that?

MR. ARCEL: Well, they have tried that many times in the past and, of course, then the young man feels he is a novice. If he is good enough to box four rounds, I don't see why he can't box a three-minute round. But, that is up to the jurisdiction of the Commission. I mean, if they feel that a young man should box a two-minute round, well then, that would be their ruling. But, if a young man is put in in good condition, he can box four three-minute rounds. The idea is to see that he is in good condition and is well trained.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: How about the reduction of championship fights from fifteen to ten rounds, or twelve rounds?

MR. ARCEL: Well, with the present-day fighters, I would favor a twelve-round fight, because I don't think these young men have developed the stamina and endurance to the extent where they can carry on for fifteen rounds. That is too long a test for them. There were many, many championship fights in the old days -- I came over to Newark, New Jersey, in 1920 with Benny Valgar and he boxed an eight-round, no-decision championship fight. It was against Johnny Kilbane in Newark. In those days we didn't have these problems, because Philadelphia had six-round fights. In New York City, they had ten-round, no-decision fights; in Newark, New Jersey, eight-round, no-decision fights. So, the boys went in there and gave good performances, and nobody got hurt. The people paid to see a good match, and they weren't interested in who won or lost. They just saw a good fight.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: So, you would agree --

MR. ARCEL: I think the fifteen-round fights are too tough.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: What effect would that have on the ability of a promoter in the State of New Jersey, if New Jersey was to say --

MR. ARCEL: I am not concerned with the promoter; I am concerned with the good and welfare of the fighter. That is the most important thing.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: I know that. I am just curious from the practical standpoint, Mr. Arcel, what would happen --

MR. ARCEL: (interrupting) The promoter is in there for one reason, to make money.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: But, if you reduced the fight -- I'm trying to get a line, okay, just because of uniformity, because it seems to me, and you made a very good statement about that in the older days, but even today there doesn't seem

to be any uniformity between the states. One state has one set of rules; one state might have the eight-count rule, another state may have another rule. So, you know, they are going to be seeking out different areas. Maybe the real area that could be addressed, which we in this area cannot do as the State Legislature, is more uniformity in boxing rules and designs. If, in fact, the State of New Jersey was to push through ten rounds for nontitle fights, or twelve rounds, which is certainly being considered by Assemblyman Deverin, would the practical effect be that major fights would go to Las Vegas or go to other areas that do not have that imposed rule?

MR. ARCEL: Well, you know, this is a self-centered business, and every promoter is looking to keep boxing in the State. If his judgment is controlled because of the amount of money that is involved, if a network would want a fifteen-round fight and he said, "Well, we can only have twelve-round fights," then the network could say, "Well, all right, we'll take this match to Las Vegas," or anyplace else. Of course, then the State loses revenue. These are the things that you have to make up your mind about, whether the welfare of the fighter is more important, or is the amount of money involved in a match more important.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Arcel, do you feel that the trainer and the so-called "cut men" or "seconds" that are in the corner of a respective fighter should be required to have a certain amount of medical training or paramedical training?

MR. ARCEL: Well, I think that a man who is working in a corner should be skilled in his trade. If a man is what you call a "cut man," he should be knowledgeable, able to handle a cut, and know what he is doing. If he doesn't know what he is doing, he doesn't belong there.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: But, how does one get that experience? Is there a course -- In your years of participation, have you ever seen too many people in a corner, or chaos break out in a corner?

MR. ARCEL: Well, I don't think three men in a corner are too many. I think that the chief second should be a well-trained handler of boxers. I do not believe that anyone should be working in a corner who doesn't know and understand the fighter, know his shortcomings, and know what he can do, and that is the secret of handling a fighter, to know and understand the young man. Everybody is different.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Should they be in the ring? In other words, between rounds?

MR. ARCEL: There is only one man who should be in the ring.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Only one man should be in the ring?

MR. ARCEL: That is the man who can handle the fight.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I see. Do you think that there should be a course they should take to receive a license? In other words, the cut men, the seconds, do you think that they should be licensed also?

MR. ARCEL: Sure, naturally, they should be licensed by the Commission, and the Commission should control the situation.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: What should be the criteria? Do you have any feeling about any criteria, any requirements that they should adhere to?

MR. ARCEL: In reference to what, sir?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: To be able to become licensed to be in a corner.

MR. ARCEL: Well, I'm certain that the Commission would know the local fighters and the local handlers, and would be able to judge accordingly whether they are entitled to be licensed by the State. Then, the Commission should control these people. They should control the making of matches. No young fighter should be

overmatched, and that has been one of the troubles. A lot of these kids are over-matched today.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: How about the managers? You bring me to a natural question about managers wanting to take part in promotion and, also, their involvement. Do you think that they should have responsibilities which they do not have today? Maybe they should be in a computer bank. The State of New Jersey might be able to have a computer bank that we can refer to for records of their fighters, and when they fought. Do you have any feeling about that?

MR. ARCEL: I think it is a very good idea to know the manager and to know the type of fighters he handles and, if he is the type of manager that has a stable of six, eight or ten fighters and they are all losers, then he doesn't belong in the business.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: In other words, you feel that their records should be examined periodically?

MR. ARCEL: That's right, because he is handling the type of fighter who is called an opponent. When they need a substitute, they call this kind of a man up and tell him, "We need a fellow weighing 160 pounds." Then, he will come in with some young kid, or some old fighter who is washed up and doesn't belong in the ring. I think there is where the jurisdiction of the Commission comes in. If they watch these things and judge them, it isn't a matter of just putting on another match, because the public isn't going to get a run for their money anyway. It isn't going to be a match. So, it would be just as well to do without it.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Do you think that maybe they should have the responsibility, the managers should have the responsibility of reporting the condition of their fighters after those fights so it could be contained in a central computer bank that the Commissioner might be able to refer to?

MR. ARCEL: Do you mean to examine them?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Yes. In other words, after that type of fight, the fighter could, of course, have an examination and then it could be reported, but it would be the responsibility of the manager.

MR. ARCEL: Anything that will help the fighter is very constructive because, as I said, the fighter is more important than anything else. Without the fighter, there would be no boxing, and you have to take care. You have a young, immature mind sometimes, who is controlled by a manager. He is told to do certain things that he shouldn't be doing. I remember years ago I had more arguments with managers and promoters because I knew what my fighter could do. I knew his capabilities, and I always gave an honest account of how many rounds he should fight, and who he should fight. As long as he is in there with someone as good as himself, that's all. If he is overmatched, then it's wrong. Then, he is going to get hurt.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Do you think the referee should also have some type of medical training, or paramedical training, to recognize when a fighter is in jeopardy?

MR. ARCEL: I think a capable referee would know whether a young man is hurt or not. I think you have some capable referees here; I have watched them work.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: How about the physician in attendance at ringside?

MR. ARCEL: Well, he should know whether a fighter is being beaten or hurt; he should pay attention to the match.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: But, do you feel he should have a specific type of medical training? In other words, we wouldn't want a baby doctor at ringside to

be in attendance to recognize when a fighter -- to have to rule when a fighter is in jeopardy?

MR. ARCEL: I think the physician can advise the referee to watch the fighter and, if he is hurt or looks like he's bad, he should stop the fight. You can't be too careful, because remember one thing, the human body was never made to be punched at. There is a lot of physical contact in all sports today, and some men are strong, well-conditioned, and able to absorb more punishment than the other fellow. If you know and understand what boxing is all about, then you can be alerted to watch a young man and not let him get hit by another punch. I would rather see a fight stopped immediately and avoid that other punch, than allow the match to go through just to satisfy the promoter, or even the crowd.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Arcel, re the standing eight count, you bring me to this question now. Regarding the standing eight count, I think there is some controversy about the standing eight count, whether it is beneficial or whether it really hurts the fighter. What is your feeling about that?

MR. ARCEL: If a man needs a standing eight count, the fight should be stopped.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Mr. Arcel, may I just take you back to the discussion regarding a properly trained physician? There has been a recommendation just recently by the physicians' AMA that possibly a physician should have the authority to be able to stop the fight. Would you be opposed to that being applicable in the State of New Jersey?

MR. ARCEL: No, I would never be opposed to that. If a doctor told me -- if a doctor could detect something that I couldn't see, I would rather see the fight stopped, even with my own fighter.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: And, allowing that physician to have the authority to do that, rather than the referee?

MR. ARCEL: Well, I think that the doctor should advise the referee. If it is in-between rounds and the doctor sees that the fighter is hurt, that is the time to stop the fight.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: What exists right now, if a physician examines a fighter and finds something, does he advise the referee now? It is my understanding that the referee is the individual who has the authority to stop a fight. The physician at this time is only allowed to advise the referee. Is that correct?

MR. ARCEL: Yes. Well, that is according to your rulings, the rulings of the Commission in this State. But, I always approved of the doctor advising the referee. If the fighter gets hit a punch, or his reflexes are not sharp enough, stop it.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Arcel, why is it that a fight can have a varied size ring, in your experience? Why is that variance only in professional boxing, whereas the rules in other sports are pretty stable? In other words, when you play baseball, it is ninety feet to first base, to all of the bases, and when you play football it is on a hundred yard-field. When you play basketball, you have two baskets with the same dimensions all the time, no matter where the arena. But, in boxing, we can vary the size of that ring. Now, I am not naive about knowing why the changes occur. It is because of the various abilities of the boxers. But, my question is, why should they occur? Why not have one specific set of rules that exist throughout boxing?

MR. ARCEL: I agree with you 100%. They should have one specific size ring, a twenty-foot ring, which is big enough for two young men to get in there and

be able to move around. Where they have these sixteen-foot rings, that is for the advantage of either the local fighter, who may be a rough, tough fighter, if he is boxing a boxer who won't have enough room to move, or he can be caught on the ropes or in the corners and be subjected to more punishment than what he ordinarily would be subjected to. But, I think there should be one-size rings and that should be the Commission ruling, that every ring should be that size, whether you make it eighteen feet or twenty feet.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Arthur Mercante was supposed to be here today, but asked if he could attend the next hearing. One of the questions I intended to ask him was, do you feel that scoring after each round that takes place should be locked into a, for lack of better words, a bank or a computer at ringside? In other words, I am curious as to why it takes so long at the end of a fight to compute the decision if there is a running total, rather than knowing immediately at the end of a fight. I have heard various reasons, and they really do not make any sense to me. But, I'm curious as to your feeling about that.

MR. ARCEL: Well, in the present system today where you have three judges sitting there and they have all these figures in front of them, they probably do not have time to keep adding it up so they would have the proper addition the minute the fight ends. It takes them five minutes or so before they can add up all the figures. Then, the Commissioner takes the slips and he figures out if the count is correct. So, that is the reason for most of the delays.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: But, in other sports there is a running total of the score. In just about every other sport I can think of, there is a running total. In boxing, there is no running total. We do not know what is going on in the minds of those judges. My feeling is that if -- One of the reasons that is always given is, "We don't want to make the crowd emotional, and that is why we don't want to let them know what is going on." Well, if we don't want to let them know what is going on, why can't that score be locked into a computer at the end of each round?

MR. ARCEL: Do you mean as shown, like on a scoreboard?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Well, that would be my feeling.

MR. ARCEL: We tried that several times. I remember one time when I went to Portland, Oregon, with Ezzard Charles and they did that. The fight went three or four rounds and Ezzard Charles won every round, and the public kind of lost interest. And, there was no match. Sometimes if a fellow is a slow starter, he may be able to finish a fight much better than he did at the beginning of the fight. But, people looking up at the score, they just lost interest in it. There is something about boxing, I mean, the mystery of it, and the anxiety to see an upset, or to see somebody come on in the latter rounds.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: If that is the case, and I don't know if that really is the case, but if that is the case, why can't we lock it into a scoreboard which does not show the score at the end of each round?

MR. ARCEL: Well, that can be done. I mean, if it is a constructive thought and the addition can be had immediately, I would never have any objection to anything like that. As long as the addition was right there when the Commission makes the check of each official's result, or his verdict, then there would be no hesitation.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Arcel, to your knowledge, what is the criteria for a fighter being able to fight? In other words, if I have the flu, do you think I should be allowed to fight that particular fight while being under the weather?

MR. ARCEL: No, you should not be allowed to fight.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: We had a fight in New Jersey recently where a fighter admitted that he had the flu when he fought, and I received many comments that he should not have been able to fight, that he should have been able to pass the medical examination before that fight.

MR. ARCEL: Well, you know, I don't like to throw stones at anybody, but why was he allowed to walk into the ring?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Well, that is my feeling too.

MR. ARCEL: I mean, isn't that the fault of the doctor, or isn't it the fault of the promoter, to allow a young man to walk into the ring when he is not physically fit? That's why I say the welfare of the boxer is last in consideration, and it always has been that way. They brought a kid over here to box Mancini. He was a Korean kid. Nobody knew whether he could fight or not. I mean, in Korea he was the number one lightweight contender. He was the only fighter they had. He was a good, strong, tough kid, and he should never have been allowed to fight fifteen rounds. If it had been a twelve-round fight, it would have been a good fight and they would have walked out, and everybody would have been all right. Why should he go ahead and fight fifteen rounds, when they don't even know his qualifications, whether he is capable enough to fight fifteen rounds? If the dollar bill is more important than the welfare of the fighter, then something has to be done.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Do you have any other questions, Terry?

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Arcel, do you have any other areas that you would like to address that Assemblyman LaCorte or I did not address?

MR. ARCEL: I'm terribly sorry, but I didn't hear your question.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Are there any areas in the profession of boxing that concern you that you feel should be addressed?

MR. ARCEL: Well, all I would say is that the promoter and the Commission should be alert to the condition of every young man who walks into that ring, even if the Commission has a representative go to a gymnasium to watch a fellow work out, without even saying anything, just watch him work to see if he is all right. Too many young men walk into the ring and they are not ready. Sometimes they are last minute substitutes; they are not in shape. All you have to do is just be careful and avoid any areas where a young fighter might be hurt.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I appreciate you taking the time out today, and I hope that this is the beginning of a dialogue between you and the Committee.

MR. ARCEL: Well, anything I can do to help boxing, I am always glad to do it. I didn't come over here to criticize anybody, but my criticism is constructive. As I said before, the welfare of the fighter is more important than all the money that anybody can make.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Thank you. Assemblyman Thomas Deverin.

A S S E M B L Y M A N T H O M A S D E V E R I N: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to let you know I appear here as an Assemblyman with a bill before your Committee, but I also appear as a fight fan. I feel like a little kid in front of a couple of idols this morning, with Ray Arcel and "Jersey Joe" Walcott. When you asked Mr. Arcel to give his background, I realize that he only spoke for about two seconds, but I watched this man boxing -- and I have been a fight fan all of my life. In fact, I fought one time in the Silver Gloves when I was a kid -- three times, and I lost three times, and I gave up that career. But, I watched Ray Arcel going way back

to Lou Nova and Max Baer in the old Garden on Eighth Avenue, and if anybody understands boxing, he's an encyclopedia, and I think that should be known on the record, that if there were more people in boxing like Ray Arcel, it would be a great sport.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Assemblyman, you might have lost a few battles in the Silver Gloves, but I've seen you win some battles up on the Assembly Floor.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: Thank you. But really, Mr. Chairman and Assemblyman LaCorte, I am a fight fan, and the thing that worries me most is that whenever something like this happens in boxing, the first thing everybody wants to do is stop boxing, and that would be a tragedy for this country, because going through the years all the great things that happened in boxing -- the kids, when it was the Irish kids coming out of the ghetto, then the Jewish kids coming, then the Black kids, and now the Spanish kids -- they all had an opportunity to make a name for themselves and to make their families happier, and make money for themselves. It has been a great sport, and there is really nothing wrong with it. When I address this Committee, I really want you to understand that I think this Committee, Mr. Chairman, can be a catalyst for some changes in boxing, not only in New Jersey, but in this nation.

When you think of what the AMA said, and the first thing they want to do is stop boxing, something like this Committee can change it. I know we can only legislate in New Jersey, but New Jersey now, as you said earlier, is really the Mecca for boxing. It is here, in Las Vegas, and a little bit in New York, and there is nowhere else to go. I have never been in favor of the Federal government running anything, any kind of sport, particularly and especially boxing. But, the things that Mr. Arcel talked about are so important, and I think that if we can set the ground rules for New Jersey, I think the other states will follow our rules.

Now, the bill I introduced and the bill before you deals a lot with what Mr. Arcel talked about. I watched so many fights; I have been to so many of them, that I cannot understand why anybody has to fight fifteen rounds, Mr. Chairman. It is not necessary. Back in the days before my time, and long before your time, when Tunney and Dempsey fought, they used to fight ten-round fights for championships, and they were great fighters. Joe Louis fought many ten-round fights, and he was one of the greatest fighters. So, there is no reason for a guy to fight fifteen rounds, and I think if you examined the record of the real serious injuries that have happened in boxing over the last ten or twenty years, you would find that most of the damage is done between the twelfth and the fifteenth rounds. Even Howard Cosell agrees with that. When Howard Cosell agrees with something, it should be a law, Mr. Chairman. Even the champion of the world, after the Cooney fight, said that no fight should go more than twelve rounds. When he fought that kid from Texas, he said that the fight should have stopped at the twelfth round. And that is really and truly one of the things that I think this Committee ought to take a hard look at. It is in the bill, but this bill really was only introduced to start something going, as you and I have talked about.

I have always thought, and I will never stop believing it, that a doctor at the fight is very important. As great as Mr. Arcel is, and as many things as he has done great in the ring with cuts and advice to boxers, he is not a medical man. With all due respect to doctors at the fights now, if they are there, and a lot of times they are not there, they are medical doctors. Most of them are general practitioners who can tell when a hand is busted; you don't need a doctor for that. The trainer can tell that; the fighter himself can tell that, or can tell when a jaw is busted. But, I think there ought to be a strong rule, and the bill calls for this, that at every single fight in this State, in fact in this country, there ought to be

an ophthalmologist and a neurologist in attendance at that fight. Their examinations can develop things that a regular medical man cannot. A neurologist, by looking in your eyes or by feeling your head, can almost tell what is going on in there. An ophthalmologist, by looking in your eye, can discover a vascular problem, or a blood problem. That is the kind of doctor I think we ought to have, really and truly.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I agree, Assemblyman. In fact, I was trying to concentrate on a specific area with Mr. Arcel, because there is one example where a death occurred in the ring, very recently, where the attending physician was a baby doctor.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: A pediatrician.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: He did not, in my mind anyway -- He is not the type of physician who should be in attendance, and I am glad to hear you mention that because I agree that that is a concern.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: I know you talked about it before, and Mr. Arcel doesn't agree, and that is an awful piece of legend not to agree with. But, being a fight fan and watching fights, it may be that sometimes a fight fan is further removed from the forest than the promoters, the trainers and the fighters themselves. I really and truly think that a two-minute fighting round is sufficient. I don't really think that a three-minute round is necessary. I think that in twelve rounds of two minutes, anybody can prove how good they are. It doesn't take three minutes and fifteen rounds. I think that some consideration should be given to this by the Committee.

I realize that the tradition is three minutes; I realize that three minutes seems to be the way to go, but I think in a two-minute round, with a one-minute rest in-between, there would be a quicker and a better chance for a fighter not to get hurt. You know, I just read in the Times last week, in fact it was an Associated Press story, of an interview with Mr. Arcel, and I was hoping he would talk about that today. When he talked about fighting not as a sport in itself, and he did say the fighter is not made to be hit, and hit, and hit, and hit, he said that fighting is a self-defense. It is a matter of self-defense. The fights I enjoy the most are kids like Sugar Ray Leonard, who can slip a punch, and move a punch, guys like Willie Pep, back in those days -- that's the kind of fighter I enjoy. The fellow who just goes in there and gets banged around and banged around is not really a credit to boxing.

The idea of banking the record of the fighters, Mr. Chairman, is something badly needed in New Jersey, and in this country. We ought to know who this guy is who's fighting, and so forth. We ought to know who this guy is who they are sticking in there. I don't know whether you can legislate something like this, but there ought to be an apprenticeship in boxing. There really ought to be an apprenticeship. To put some kids in who fought seven or eight times with a guy like Larry Holmes, or even Jerry Cooney didn't belong in the ring that night. He didn't serve his apprenticeship, as good as he is, and as much as I rooted for him. He did not serve his apprenticeship. He wasn't ready to fight that kind of a fighter. There ought to be some way, whether it is a novice approach or a time approach or a record approach -- there ought to be some way to tell if the fighter is ready, capable and able to fight in a championship fight, or fight someone in the same weight class, but out of his class. That is the kind of thing I would like to see happen.

I also think, Mr. Chairman, -- and I have talked to a couple of fellows who were fighters and a couple of people I know who are judges and trainers -- that the ring padding ought to be just a little thicker. I am not expert enough to know how many inches thicker it should be, but a lot of injuries from fighting come from a bang on the head when someone goes down. That ought to be considered.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Do you want to talk about your bill, Assemblyman? I don't know whether you intended to, or whether you wanted to concentrate on other areas, but I know in your bill you brought up some very pertinent areas. The thumbless glove was one; the padding was another one, and the ophthalmologist and neurologist. But, the thumbless glove, do you want to talk about that?

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: Yes. Well, the idea of the thumbless glove, I think, was tried in New York, and since I introduced the bill, and since I have had some private meetings with fellows who are ex-fighters and fellows who are trainers, I think I withdraw the idea of the thumbless glove, Mr. Chairman. The reason for that is that I think the original intent of the thumbless glove was to avoid eye injuries. I find out now that if you talk to someone who is a boxer and you think about it, that thumb is a defense for a fighter, to hold back a hand, or hold back a fighter. If he doesn't have that thumb, he is going to get clobbered more than he should. So, as far as I am concerned, if you consider the bill, that part of the bill could be removed.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: We will be considering it.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: I think the thumbless glove is something that sounded good to me at the time, but I withdraw it without any consideration. The bill itself limits championship fights to twelve rounds, up to twelve rounds. It limits nonchampionship fights to ten rounds. Now, that can be anywhere from two rounds to ten rounds, or anywhere in-between, depending on what the promoter and the fighter and the Commission think it should be. Again, it limits each round to two minutes and requires a respite of at least one minute. It requires padding of at least four inches under the mats, and requires that a neurologist and an ophthalmologist be present at ringside throughout a boxing match. It prohibits a boxer, Mr. Chairman, and I am not sure that I have this written right or whether it is drawn right, but it prohibits a boxer who has lost a match because of a knockout from boxing again for six months, or from assuming a false name to circumvent the prohibition. It prohibits his manager from knowingly permitting him to box, or prohibits a promoter from knowingly arranging a boxing match in which a boxer who is prohibited from boxing participates. By that I mean, if someone is knocked out, and I mean completely knocked out, either a TKO or a knockout, that there should be a rest period. I think there is now -- It is not written right; I'm not sure what it is. Sometimes there is a rest period, and sometimes there isn't. But, there ought to be some period of time, at least ninety days or six months, before the fighter is allowed to go back into a ring, in order for his physical faculties to recuperate from that knockout. Now, if you are walking down the street and you hit your head, and you go unconscious, they will put you in the hospital for four or five weeks. They won't let you walk around until they find out what it is. But, a fighter who is completely knocked out -- I mean knocked out, can be back in the ring in two to three weeks, anywhere in this country. We ought to do something about that.

Also, there ought to be a strong penalty for people who use false names. I know that doesn't happen as much as it happened years ago, but it still happens. A Johnny Johnson fights under the name of Mikey Johnson or under the name of Mikey

Brennan, and it is the same guy, and he may fight every ten days or every couple of weeks. There ought to be some way to "have a bank," I guess is the right expression, Mr. Chairman, have a bank of who the fighters are and some identification of who they are and where they come from so we can avoid that.

That basically is what the bill calls for. I am very much interested in the work of this Committee when it comes to boxing, because I know how much it means to New Jersey. It means a lot to the country. You know, football is a great sport and basketball is a great sport, all the sports, but this is the only sport where two guys get into a ring, and there is no one else in there but those two guys, and they defend themselves the best they can. They fight the best they can. What they really need from us legislators and from managers and promoters, is faith that when they go in there that all the backup, the doctors, the promoters, the managers and the trainers are capable people who are taking care of them, so if they win or lose, at least they know they are getting a fair shake. Basically, that is what I trust happens with boxing in New Jersey, because I think it is a great thing for New Jersey and for this country.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Assemblyman, from your experience, do you think there is any possibility -- Let's talk about that six-month waiting period after a knockout or a TKO. Is there any way to develop some kind of reciprocity between states, because, you know, we are not an island in New Jersey, although New Jersey has become a little Mecca lately. But, there are other areas; there are other places to fight. Fighters can get on trains or planes or in cars and go from one state to another to fight. How can we develop something, without having Federal legislation getting involved, and I sort of agree with you there, but it seems to me that, you know, in football we have the NFL. There is sort of a superstructure in baseball through the Commissioner's office. There are waiver lists, there are injured reserve lists they have to publish. But, that is so that one ballplayer can't go to -- you know, it's a published thing, so there are certain national rules to the game. There are none here in this sport. I was wondering, in your background and knowledge of the sport, is there any way we can develop with other states or other commissions so that if we have set these rules up that, you know, maybe the twelve rounds or other areas would be difficult, but certainly something like a six-month waiting period after a knockout, developing some kind of reciprocity -- is that possible?

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: I think so, Assemblyman LaCorte. I think that this Committee, and there are only three states that are big in boxing -- there are a couple of fringe states, but New Jersey, Nevada and New York are really where all the boxing -- and California, four states -- There are committees similar to this in all those states, but boxing, as I understand it as a fan, is controlled really by the two associations, the World Boxing Association, and whatever the other one is. They must understand that if they are to succeed, and the promoters must understand if they are to succeed, that they have to fight in New Jersey. They can't have all the fights in Las Vegas; they can't have all the fights in California and New York. If you can't fight, there just has to be some time in-between. Between those four states where real boxing is heavy, there ought to be some reciprocity. There ought to be some way around it. I'm not sure, Terry, that six months is the right amount of time, but there ought to be an amount of time that is legitimate, where some fighter who gets knocked out in New Jersey on January 2 can't fight in California on January 5. I think that if this Committee would communicate and work with the committees in those other states, I think that could be arranged. I don't know whether

a Federal regulation -- I'm scared to death of Federal regulations, but I think that there is some way you can do that. If the punishment is stiff enough, I think a guy would think twice before he tried it.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: As I understand it, you would like us to consider your bill intact, except for the thumbless glove.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: Yes, the thumbless glove. I'm not sure, Mr. Chairman, that I have the right time in-between the knockout and the next fight. Six months may be too long. In some conversations I have had with trainers and fighters, they say it is a long period of time. There ought to be some recuperative period, at least ninety days or something, before a guy can get back in the ring. And, there ought to be some kind of examination before he gets back in the ring.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: How long has the three-minute and one-minute rule been in effect in professional boxing?

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: As long as I remember. The only two-minute rounds I know of are in amateur fights.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: So, really, that portion of the bill, which I believe is Item 2, would drastically change the structure of boxing as it exists today?

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: The structure, yes, but I don't think it would change the excitement or the actual combat of the fight itself. I think when a guy knows he only has two minutes to do his job, he may do it better and do it quicker.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: What is your rationale for that? Is that for the safety of the fighter?

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: That's right, absolutely. I think the three-minute round is too long. I think that in three minutes times ten, you're fighting too long a fight. In three minutes times fifteen, you're fighting too long a fight. A two-minute fight will give you the same reaction, the same result, without that much exhaustion, that much physical energy expended. I really think the two-minute round will do the trick.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I think Larry Holmes indicated in his last fight, Assemblyman, that he was afraid to knock out his opponent because, in his experience, when a person is fatigued, the way his opponent was, to knock him out is when the damage would occur. So, that would concur with your feeling and my feeling, and much of the feeling that has been expressed here today. Are there any other areas, Assemblyman, that you would like to address?

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: No, Mr. Chairman, except to again offer you my congratulations, as a veteran Assemblyman. This is so important to New Jersey, and the work of this Committee is so important. I think that once it starts here, you will find it following suit all over the nation.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: We appreciate your encouragement. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DEVERIN: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Dan Duva, who is the President of Main Event.

D A N I E L D U V A: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Dan Duva. I am an attorney, and I am also President of Main Event Productions, which is a boxing promoter, a licensed boxing promoter in this State, and we are licensed to promote boxing in twelve other states. We have promoted a number of professional -- We promote between forty and sixty professional boxing shows a year, and have been doing so for approximately four years.

I have listened to the Assemblyman; I have listened to Mr. Arcel, both of whom I have great respect for. I am sure the people I see in this room probably

agree with most of what they said. I think the main focus of this Committee should be, not so much specific rules such as two-minute rounds or three-minute rounds, or twelve-round title fights versus fifteen-round title fights -- I think if you look at the rules and regulations governing boxing contests in the State of New Jersey as they are presently constituted, they need revision, but not substantial revision. I think the problem is in their enforcement. I think that in the past five years, revenues generated by professional boxing in this State have increased one hundred times, and the staff of the Athletic Commission has decreased. I think that is criminal. There are presently two full-time people on the New Jersey Athletic Commission staff to regulate, I imagine, in excess -- this year it will be in excess -- I think Mr. Lee and Mr. Walcott could back me up -- of a hundred professional boxing contests this year, which is probably an average of six to eight bouts per show. You are talking, probably, a thousand bouts per year, to be regulated by two full-time workers. That is where the problem lies. If it were not for, what I consider, the heroic efforts of Bob Lee, Jersey Joe Walcott, Roy Johnson and a few others associated with the Athletic Commission, boxing would be a shambles in this State. The reason is because the State has to make a bigger commitment to put together the enforcement arm, which is the State Athletic Commission, to finance them, to give them the tools to work with to regulate this sport. They talk about matches being approved in advance; they talk about better criteria for licensing. They need the people; they need the ability to regulate the sport, and right now they do not have it. I think that if you give them the tools to regulate the sport, that will go a long way toward protecting the interest of the boxer and advancing the industry, which it is in this State. That is my opening comment.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I agree with you. In fact, at our first meeting with the Commissioner about a year ago, I indicated to him then that I would support increasing any appropriation and, also, increasing his manpower, that I felt that the enforcement of existing regulations was a problem. I agree with you, too, that there should be some changes, not radical, but some changes in those existing regulations.

MR. DUVA: One other point, Assemblyman Fortunato, -- I wasn't sure and I just checked with Mr. Lee and it is sure, just to show you the contrast, we conducted, Main Event Productions conducted a boxing show on November 20 which was probably the largest, in terms of revenue and crowd, in New Jersey in 1982. It was conducted in Atlantic City at the Convention Hall. The total revenues for that fight, counting T.V. and live gate, were probably in excess of a million and a half dollars. It was watched world-wide via television, and it was a pretty big undertaking. The chief inspector that night for the Athletic Commission who was in charge of making sure that all the rules and regulations and everything were followed for this million and a half dollar extravaganza was paid fifteen dollars. It is difficult to get good people, and he is a remarkable individual, for fifteen dollars, to regulate a million and a half dollar event involving thousands of people. I think that is where the real problem lies.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I had a meeting with the Attorney General's Office a couple of months ago and I indicated to them, again, that I would support increasing appropriations and manpower. They indicated that they would be looking to do that.

MR. DUVA: We paid taxes on that event in excess of \$60,000 to the State and, as I said, the inspector who was in charge that night was paid fifteen dollars.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Mr. Duva, you said that you would also make some recommendations for improvement on some of the regulations.

MR. DUVA: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: You want to make two points. One, that we do have certain things on the books now, but just do not have the manpower to enforce them.

MR. DUVA: That is most important.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: And, number two, there are certain improvements that you would like to see done with the regulations that exist. Could you present those to us?

MR. DUVA: Yes, I would be happy to. The great difficulty, Assemblyman LaCorte, as you have touched upon a few times, is the lack of uniformity between states. I think that in changing any regulation, we should consider what the other states are doing, to the extent where anything we do, we should try to make it consistent. Of course, the number one interest is doing what is best, but I think that part of doing what is best is doing what is consistent.

I do not have any knowledge of medicine, so I cannot comment as to what is safer for boxers or what is not safer. I can use my common sense and come up with a few things. One of them is, I think that probably the major reason for injuries, for serious injuries in boxing, is the failure of a fighter to go into a fight in proper condition. I think the length of the round has less to do with someone being injured in a fight than the fighter's condition going into the fight. Again, that goes back to regulation and the ability to enforce the existing rules, and rules that I might suggest. The Athletic Commission, the people who are in charge of approving a fight, or a matchmaker or a promoter, has no way of knowing what that fighter is doing a week before or two weeks before or thirty days before his scheduled fight. We don't know if he is in the gym everyday. We don't know if he is in top shape to be in that fight and, when a fighter goes in ill-prepared, that is when he is setting himself up to be injured. I think, except for very rare occasions, in most cases when fighters have been killed in the ring, or suffered serious injuries, it has been because they have gone into the ring in less than top physical condition. To prevent that, I think a start would be -- We have a five-day physical rule in New Jersey, where a fighter should be given an extensive physical five to seven days prior to a bout, check his condition then, and then repeat that examination just prior to the fight, at the weigh in for the fight, which is usually held on the day of the fight or the day before. There should be two physicals.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Excuse me, did you say we should or we do have a five-day physical?

MR. DUVA: We have it now, but the problem is, again, that boxing has exploded in this State. There are so many boxing shows going on, oftentimes two in one night, that the Athletic Commission with its limited resources cannot keep up. So, sometimes, those five-day physicals are forced to fall by the wayside because there is no staff to do them.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Duva, if I could just ask you this. The example I referred to earlier concerning a fighter who fought for the championship --

MR. DUVA: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: -- who had the flu. He indicated he had the flu. I would agree with you that being short of manpower is a problem and a reason, but, for a championship fight, I would feel that it should be our responsibility to

adhere to the two requirements that you just indicated.

MR. DUVA: Absolutely.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: So, how would a fighter pass those two examinations, if he indicated he had the flu?

MR. DUVA: I am sure that is at the discretion of the examining doctor to decide whether he thinks the fighter is physically able to participate in a bout. I don't think I would substitute my judgment for his. If a doctor makes a mistake, then he's made a mistake. I do not know the particular case, if the doctor examined him and decided that he was capable of participating. I know in many professional sports, whether it be professional football, basketball or baseball, there are many athletes who go into the contest at less than 100% of their physical capabilities. They may have the flu; they may have a fever. They may have recently had their knees operated on, or their hands operated on, but the doctor determines that they are physically capable of going through with it. I am not going to substitute my judgment for his, other than to say that by adhering to the five-day physical rule, and a physical on the day of the fight, or at the weigh in which is usually the day of the fight or the day before the fight, the doctor then has the ability to determine whether a fighter should or should not participate. I think it is his judgment; it is his call.

Now, as I said, I think the doctor should exercise his discretion, and we have to trust the discretion of a doctor and his opinion. I am not saying his opinion was right or wrong in the example you cited, because I do not know all the facts. I do not think I am qualified to make a judgment as to -- you know, to overrule the judgment of a physician, other than to say that we should use doctors who understand that this is a demanding physical sport and they should take that into consideration when deciding whether or not a fighter is capable of fighting. I, as a promoter, have had fighters who were disqualified by doctors from participating because of heart murmurs or because of high blood pressure. Usually, the major thing that I recall is doctors disqualifying fighters from participating because of high blood pressure. But, it has happened and, again, I think that is a point you made before, that the doctor should be used to treating athletes and should have the expertise to be able to make an intelligent judgment as to whether or not a fighter is able to participate.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Dan, who hires the physician for a fight?

MR. DUVA: The Athletic Commission.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: The Athletic Commission. Who pays for the physician? Does it come through the purse?

MR. DUVA: Up until very recently, the Athletic Commission paid the doctor. I think it has been changed recently; I'm not really sure. I think it has been changed where we pay for the doctor now?

FROM AUDIENCE: World title fights only.

MR. DUVA: World title fights only, but in most other states, the promoter pays for the doctor. The doctor has to be authorized by the Athletic Commission to be someone who has the expertise to make these types of decisions, and he is retained by the Athletic Commission, but in most states, the promoter pays for the doctor. In this State, the Athletic Commission pays for the doctor. I think the problem there is that the doctors are underpaid. Fortunately, here we have some dedicated doctors; you see the same doctors at every show, which is good, because they get to know the boxers and understand them.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: So, the physician for this five-day physical, that comes out of the budget of the Athletic Commission?

MR. DUVA: Yes, to my knowledge, and Mr. Lee and Mr. Walcott --

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Only except for the championship fights?

MR. DUVA: In the championship fights, the promoter pays the doctor.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: On physicians, do you have any feelings about -- I asked this of Mr. Arcel, but what would your feelings be on the recommendation made by the American Medical Association regarding physicians having the power to stop a fight, or authority to stop a fight?

MR. DUVA: I do not have any problem with that. I do not have any problem with that at all, again, providing that there is a criterion for a doctor to be authorized by the Athletic Commission. I don't think you could take any doctor and give him the power to stop a fight, because he may not have the expertise in that area. But, once he has been authorized by the Athletic Commission to be an Athletic Commission doctor, and meets certain criteria, then I think he should have that authority.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: I know you are not the right person to ask -- Mr. Lee is here, and Mr. Walcott is here, but I do not know if they are testifying today. Are they?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I am going to ask them. I think they are here just as observers.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Let me ask through you, Mr. Duva. I would assume that since you have to be quite close to that relationship between physician and the Athletic Commission and who they are hiring, I would assume that there are some kind of requirements for a physician to be, basically what they call a "fight doctor." Is there any background that is required? The Athletic Commission isn't going to just take anyone who has an interest in it.

MR. DUVA: I am not qualified to answer because I really do not know. I really don't know. I know that, for the most part, they are the same doctors over and over. I think they go by areas, like doctors in North Jersey, and some in South Jersey, so that they do not have to travel great distances.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Are these doctors basically on retainer, so to speak?

MR. DUVA: They are probably paid on a per-show basis, but I don't know. Again, it is usually the same doctors over and over again, and that's good, because they are used to dealing with athletes, particularly boxers, and they can recognize problems as they occur. I think that the doctors who are presently working in New Jersey definitely have the expertise and the ability, where if they see a fight should be stopped, I think they should have the right to stop a fight. Maybe a referee for some reason or another doesn't see something that a doctor sees.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Do you think it is realistic, another recommendation that was made regarding CAT scans, which is a special x-ray? I do not know the terminology, the proper name for a CAT scan, but it is an x-ray of the brain. There was a recommendation that that be required for fighters who have had knockouts, or TKOs.

MR. DUVA: The problem with CAT scans and, again, I hate to equate someone's safety with dollars, but the problem with CAT scans is their cost. The cost of the CAT scan, to my knowledge, is anywhere from \$250 to \$350. That is what about a four-round fighter earns for a fight. I would like to see a method by which maybe the Athletic Commission, in conjunction with one or two of our major hospitals or medical centers in the State, could reach some kind of an agreement whereby they

could get the CAT scans done at a much more reasonable cost. If that were the case, I would think it would be a good idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Don't you think basically that that is something which should be coming out of the gate to protect the fighter?

MR. DUVA: I understand what you're saying.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Because this seems to be one of the major problems, not only for the fighter that is.

MR. DUVA: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: You know, you have the glare of publicity when you have something like a championship fight and you have a fighter who loses his life. But, the ongoing problem is the fighter who hasn't reached the championship, or maybe he has, who has been fighting for eight or nine years, and who has been, you know, a good fighter, but who then has effects from his trade for the rest of his life.

MR. DUVA: I agree.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: You know, a football player has it with his knees; a fighter has it with damages in other areas, speech impediments, and so forth. It would seem to me that that ought to be something that should be right out of the gate in order to protect that fighter, because he is a young man, he is trying to make a living, and I think it is the obligation of the promoter, the Athletic Commission and the State to say that there should have to be certain protections.

MR. DUVA: What I would suggest to this Committee is that -- Again, I am not qualified to make that kind of medical judgment, but what I would suggest to this Committee is that there are, as I said, three or four Athletic Commission doctors who attend all the shows in the State of New Jersey, and who probably have more experience dealing with boxing than any physicians in this country or in the world, because they are actually involved in it, those being Dr. Doggett, Dr. Cassidy, and a few others. I would suggest that you have a session with them, to get their opinions as to the necessity for CAT scans, the necessity for pre-fight physicals, the extent of pre-fight physicals and the criteria for authorizing a doctor to be an Athletic Commission doctor. I would have no problem as a promoter agreeing with whatever recommendations they would make.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Dan, may I ask a favor of you? Since I am not in the business, maybe you could give some names to Wayne Bockelman, who is our Committee Aide.

MR. DUVA: I'm sure that Mr. Lee could give you the names and addresses of all of the State-authorized Athletic Commission doctors. I think that their input should play a great role in this Committee seeking to revise the rules and regulations of boxing, because they have experience. Dr. Doggett probably sees 800 boxing matches a year, probably more than any other doctor in the country, and Dr. Cassidy is the same way. They could give you better advice than I could ever give you, and probably better than the American Medical Association could give you. They live it, while the others do not.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Duva, it has been said, not today, but through our Committee, that a manager should have the responsibility of reporting to various commissions in which his fighter is licensed, the condition of his fighter after the fight, who he fought, location and certain criteria. What is your feeling about that?

MR. DUVA: Well, again, I took the time last night to read the rules and regulations. It is probably the first time I have read them in awhile, and there are rules in there that I wasn't aware of. One of them is that a manager is required, is presently required before each bout to give the matchmaker, and the matchmaker is then in turn required to give to the Commission, the results of the last five bouts of his particular fighter. Unfortunately, again because of the volume of work, it is not done. That simple regulation where the promoter is required to give the results of the fighter's last five bouts gives the Commission, which has the authority and the obligation to approve every bout, something to go on when deciding whether a particular match is a good match, a competitive match, and whether a particular fighter is capable of participating in that match. Again, it goes back to what I said in the beginning, they need the staff to do those things.

But, to get on one point that you hit which is off on a little tangent, I think we have rules that when a fighter is knocked out, currently he is suspended for sixty days. If he is TKOed, he is currently suspended for thirty days. Unfortunately, we have no punishment for the managers. The manager is entitled in this State to collect up to one-third of what a fighter gets paid. It varies greatly according to the particular negotiations between a fighter and a manager how much he actually gets. I think there should be some regulation, with a penalty for a manager, where if he contracts for his fighter, a fighter he represents to participate in a certain number of bouts, whether it be three fights or four fights, where he is knocked out two or three times in a row, or maybe loses three or four in a row, then the manager is not doing his job. The fighter gets suspended, but the manager keeps making matches and getting paid from other fighters. I think the only way you are going to really put some teeth into these regulations is to suspend that manager, have some sanctions against him, because maybe if he has a fighter who loses two in a row, and he knows that if this fighter loses another one his license is going to be suspended, that it is not only going to effect his income from that particular fighter, but from other fighters he may represent, the next time he is going to make sure that he matches that fighter in a fight where he has a good opportunity to win. And, when you do that, the fighter is not going to get hurt. I think, going one step further, that matchmakers and promoters should be the same way. They should be under the same regulations. I think that probably a way to do it would be to have a State inspector -- We have a State inspector at every fight now. Have the State inspector rate each show, maybe an excellent, a good and a poor. I'm talking off the top of my head; I really haven't thought this out totally. Maybe the inspector could rate the show and, if a particular promoter or particular matchmaker had two or three poor ratings, by that I mean in the competitiveness of the matches, because that is what we are talking about, we're talking about safety, the competitiveness of a match, where he has two or three poor ratings in a row, or within a specified period of time, say three months, six months, a year or whatever, that promoter or matchmaker's license should be suspended.

When we do these things, we are then giving people incentive to make competitive matches and protect the fighters, not put an ill-conditioned fighter in the ring, whether it be a promoter, a matchmaker or a manager, because, you know, boxing is a sport, it is a business, and when you take away the manager's, the boxer's, the promoter's or the matchmaker's ability to earn a living at that business, then they are going to hesitate before they continue doing those things that could lead to injuries in the sport.

So, I think we have to come up with sanctions against, not only the boxers, but against the people who are responsible for putting them into the ring.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: In other words, we should have a memory bank with promoters' records or ratings, and managers' records of fighters also?

MR. DUVA: Absolutely.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: As Mr. Arcel said earlier, there are some who provide the opponent.

MR. DUVA: That's right; there are, consistently, managers whose records during the course of a year, if they contract for fifty bouts during the year, their records are probably three and forty-seven. To protect against that, that manager should not be allowed to make a living at the sport, or his ability to make a living should be seriously restricted. With the cost of small computers being so low today, I do not think it would be a big thing for the State of New Jersey, with the amount of revenue generated today by boxing in this State, to get a computer to keep simple records, such as the records of managers, the records of fighters, and the records of matchmakers and promoters. The matchmakers and promoters could be on a simple rating system, done by the inspector who happens to be there, and they file reports on every show. They file reports now with the Athletic Commission as to the efforts of the boxers. They could probably put in their reports also the efforts of the promoters, managers and matchmakers.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: That is a suggestion that this Committee has made to the Commission and to the Attorney General's Office many times. I agree, and I know the Commissioner also agrees, that there should be some type of formal record keeping.

MR. DUVA: The problem, again, is that with two secretaries and two full-time people, it is a little difficult to do that.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Mr. Duva, can you address, or enlighten the Committee, on the area of options in a particular fight, fighter, promoter, manager, or what not?

MR. DUVA: Yes, I can. The area you are talking about is the exclusive promotional rights, where a promoter contracts with a fighter, where the fighter agrees to box exclusively for a particular promoter. That is done for one basic reason, and that is because it is good business. The way it is good business, is that it takes a tremendous amount of time and money to develop a fighter, the same way it takes a major league baseball team a tremendous amount of time and money to develop a professional baseball player. They put him through the minor leagues, so to speak, and they have a contract for his services, so that when he becomes a major leaguer they do not have to rebid for his services. In the same way, a professional boxing promoter, when a fighter turns professional, if he believes that fighter has the ability to become a contender or a world champion, or to become someone who helps his business, and if he is going to make a commitment to that fighter, because it usually takes two to three years to develop the talents of a fighter, a promoter would not put himself in a position where he is going to use his efforts, his energies and his finances to build the career of a fighter, then when he gets to a certain point that fighter has the ability -- he does not have anything for his investment. So, in that case, it is similar to major league baseball, where they go through a minor league system and, then when the athlete becomes a major leaguer, the team that has developed him has the opportunity to get the fruits of their labors and his.

A problem with that in this State, and in all states, is that while the length of boxer/manager contracts is regulated, the length of promoter/boxer contracts

is not regulated. As a promoter, I would have no problem with a reasonable regulation limiting the length of time that a boxer is bound to a particular promoter. You know, just off the top of my head, I would think a reasonable time would be three to four years, because it takes a minimum of two years to develop -- on the average -- a minimum of two years to really develop a fighter, so three to four years I don't think is unreasonable.

Now, as far as options are concerned, the way options come into effect is that a promoter, if he has developed or has the rights to a particular star fighter, and he gives another fighter the opportunity to box this particular fighter, and in so doing the other fighter possibly defeats his star, the practice is that the promoter says to the fighter, as a part of their negotiations, "I'm giving you the opportunity to be a champion, or to beat this guy, and if you do, you, being the fighter that I have developed and the fighter that I've built up and I've made my star -- if that is the case and I am giving you that opportunity, then I want you to sign a contract with me to protect my investment in that fighter." Basically, that is the way it works as far as options are concerned. So, what they do is, if the fighter wins, they have the option to promote his next -- whatever it is. But, the number of fights is being determined on the ability of the boxer's manager to negotiate with the promoter.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: In other words, so I understand this, say I'm a fighter --

MR. DUVA: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: -- and Mr. LaCorte is my promoter. I am not a champion now, and I have an obligation to Mr. LaCorte, and you, as a promoter, have the champion.

MR. DUVA: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: For me to fight a champion I would have to relinquish my obligation to Mr. LaCorte and have a new obligation?

MR. DUVA: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I see.

MR. DUVA: Unfortunately, option practices are almost exclusively limited to world title fights or major heavyweight fights. The problem is that when a promoter begets a champion, any time you want to fight that champion, if you win you have to agree to box exclusively for the promoter who had that champion under contract, who gave you that opportunity to fight for the championship. Again, depending on the ability of the manager to negotiate, it can run anywhere from one option, the option to promote one title defense, to the right to promote every defense as long as you are champion. It depends, as I said, on the ability of a manager to negotiate and, also, the position of the challenger, where the challenger may be, in some cases, more important than the champion. So, the promoter does not have great leverage when it comes to negotiation.

In a perfect world, I don't think that system is necessarily a bad one. Where it becomes a bad one, is because the two organizations that are now recognized as sanctioning bodies for the world titles are probably the most corrupt organizations in professional sports. They are the WBA and the WBC, and they have favorite promoters, for whatever reasons.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: May I ask you this along those lines, not to interrupt your train of thought, but we have an example of a champion who, by his own testimony in the press, not before a court, but statements in the press, stated that the promoter who he has an obligation to has come to him many times and asked him not to take as much money as they have contracted for?

MR. DUVA: I have heard of that. To me, that's the fighter's problem for being stupid enough to do it.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Yes. Is that a common practice, or is that just a --

MR. DUVA: I don't think it is. I know that as a promoter myself, and speaking for myself, I have never asked a fighter to take less money in a fight after we have contracted for a certain amount of money.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: What changes would you make, or what direction would you take along the lines that you just mentioned concerning the WBA and the other tainted organization?

MR. DUVA: My personal opinion, from the experience I have gained in this sport, is that I would withdraw recognition of both organizations. I do not think they serve any useful purpose. I think that the majority of the boxing in the world takes place in the United States. I think that the majority of the revenues generated by the sport are in the United States, and both organizations are outside the United States. One is located in Mexico City; the other one is located in Panama. They perpetuate most of the bad things in the sport. They try to put themselves beyond the laws of the United States. I was involved in a lawsuit with the WBA, where they argued that they are not subject to the laws of the United States and, fortunately, the Federal judge in Newark said that they are. As a result of that, at their next convention, they suggested that they dissolve their corporate status in the United States so that they would no longer be subject to the courts in the United States. They operate any way they want for the benefit of whoever happens to be their most favorite son at the time. In that way, the option system becomes a very bad practice then, because normally a fighter should be entitled to work himself up the rankings to get into a spot where the champion, by rules, has to defend against this particular person because he has earned that shot at the title by being the number one contender.

What happens is that, if a particular fighter won't play ball with the promoter who happens to be influential over a particular organization, that particular fighter will never become a number one contender and will never be able to have a mandatory defense against the champion where the organization is, in fact, ordering the champion, saying, "You must defend against this guy -- this particular fighter." In that case, once they order that, then the promoter cannot insist on options, because it has been ordered that he fight him. He is not doing him a favor; he is not giving him an opportunity, he has earned that opportunity. But, what happens is that the organization will simply deny that person his shot at the mandatory title fight. You asked about options. That is one of the ways the WBA and the WBC operate. The others are that they come into a state and bring the officials with them. The officials tend to favor certain particular fighters, who are, again, favorites of the particular organization. We had a case in New Jersey where a fighter that my father manages -- I don't want it to seem that I am leaning toward someone because my father happens to manage him. I just want to preface that so no one can say that I didn't bring it out. We had a fighter named Rocky Lockridge, who fought for a world featherweight title -- a WBA featherweight title here in New Jersey against a Panamanian champion. He fought in New Jersey. The judge who was licensed by the New Jersey Athletic Commission and the New York Athletic Commission, and who judges many fights in this State, judged the fight, one point in favor of Lockridge and the Panamanian President of the Association brought in a referee from South Africa, who judged the fight eight rounds to five rounds in favor of the champion. It was close enough to go either way, when someone else scored it eight to seven, but they also had a judge from Panama, who scored the fight fourteen rounds to one, for the champion.

It becomes very, very difficult to compete with that type organization, and the Athletic Commission's hands are almost tied because, obviously, they want to bring title fights into this State. The promoters, the casinos in Atlantic City, the Sands, and the fighters who fight here want to see title fights. Unfortunately, they are forced, almost, to do business with these corrupt organizations or not have any title fights in this State. The only answer is to come up with a way, either to force these organizations to be more accountable for their actions and be more fair in the way they issue world titles, or come up with another organization or another method of granting world titles.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: You said "withdraw or eliminate sanctions to these organizations," because you made a pretty strong statement as far as those two organizations are concerned. Is this really the feeling of your organization, Main Events, or would you say this is the feeling of many of the promoters, matchmakers and managers in the country, about these organizations?

MR. DUVA: I think probably it is the feeling of the majority of the promoters and managers in the country. The problem, again, is that there is no alternative right now.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: May I ask you a question? If the main source of boxing, and the main thrust of boxing is the United States, in the world, why couldn't the managers, promoters and matchmakers get together and form their own organization and put their own Commissioner in, and then just set their own ranking and have the mandatory, which would eliminate the option of exclusive right? If a fellow is ranked, I would assume, first or second and would have to have a title shot, then it is not up to the promoter to give him the shot, it is the rankings that do it. Why couldn't you do that, or have you ever talked about that?

MR. DUVA: You have just asked the \$64,000 question. The answer is because there is no one authority in this country to speak for boxing. If New Jersey says it will go one way, then who are they hurting except the promoters, boxers and the members of the boxing industry in New Jersey, because then the WBA and the WBC will say, "Fine, we'll go to Nevada. We'll go to New York or we'll go to California, or we'll go to Panama." The problem is that the states' Athletic Commissions cannot agree to do it together. If Nevada, New Jersey, California, New York, Florida, Texas, the twenty-eight or thirty Athletic Commissions in this country were able to agree on anything, then it could be done, because organizations cannot exist without boxing in the United States. I would probably go so far as to say that it would be difficult for them to exist without New Jersey, but I don't think that anyone in New Jersey would be willing to take that risk at this point, unfortunately.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: Yes, but it seems to me that the time is now --

MR. DUVA: The time is now; there is no doubt about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: -- because, I mean, boxing has revived in the scope of things. The main question that has been running through my mind this afternoon is, why are we -- you know, New Jersey can do certain things, but if Nevada doesn't want to do them -- you said twelve states, the Assemblyman said there are four states involved -- it would seem to me that when Federal regulations get involved, or the State of New Jersey gets involved --

MR. DUVA: I don't even think you need Federal regulations. I think you need --

ASSEMBLYMAN LaCORTE: No, but I'm saying, it would be better for the matchmakers and for the promoters, and the managers and the fighters, who are really

involved in the sport, who know the sport -- I don't know the sport. I mean, I enjoy it, but I do not know the ins and outs. You have said things today that I have never heard of before. Okay? Wouldn't it be better, you can articulate it well, you are one of the main thrusts in, not only our State, but through the country, you have had the biggest fight, I think, in the country, or in the world recently with the Leonard-Durant fight, Why couldn't you put something together, or a group of you get together to start self-regulating yourselves, rather than having the government come in? Then you could talk about managing contracts or promoting contracts, and twelve rounds or ten rounds, or you could have CAT scans, and you could self-regulate your own setup. You could get rid of this type of organization and be self-regulating, with the states making sure that everything is in hand, and not getting out of hand, rather than the states involved -- one state has its set of rules, another state has another set of rules. The Federal government is going to get involved and, you know, you are going to lose your sport eventually, because anytime the government gets involved, from my experience, I do not think we improve it. I think we bring it down, because we are not experts. I mean, Buddy has his feelings, and I have mine. I am not an expert in boxing. I enjoy it, but I don't know the ins and outs of it. It is up to you people to start self-regulating. I mean, you are a refreshing individual in this sport. Mr. Arcel certainly is, with his experience. But you, as a promoter, a refreshing individual who has a good background, and there are other people there, and I think it is time for you to maybe start getting together and trying to form your own organizations so you can start self-regulating.

MR. DUVA: I agree, and we are in the process of doing that. The problem is, it is very difficult to take something that has been an anarchy since Cain and Abel first put on the gloves and try to get people now to agree to self-regulation.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I think it should be noted that there was an attempt. Mr. Lee and the Commissioner have been in the forefront of exactly what Mr. LaCorte --

MR. DUVA: Mr. Lee is President of the United States Boxing Association which, I believe, if it got the full support of the Athletic Commissions throughout this country, could be the mechanism to do exactly what we are discussing. Unfortunately, while they are members, they do not really throw their full weight behind it. I think that that could be the framework and the beginnings, and I think that the convention for the USBA -- which is at the end of this month, isn't it --

FROM AUDIENCE: April 24.

MR. DUVA: Oh, April, in Atlantic City. I think that is the beginning. The USBA has been around for awhile, and, fortunately, it has a President like Bob Lee, who has the energy and the desire to try to get things done. If we can somehow get all the competing interests and selfish interests together to do what is best for the entire industry, I think there is a possibility this could happen. The problem is that people in this industry are too shortsighted. They do not realize that what is good for the industry is good for them. They are only concerned with today, rather than tomorrow. We are trying to get them to consider tomorrow.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Thank you. We appreciate you taking time out to come today.

MR. DUVA: Thank you. I just want to apologize to everyone, because I have to leave. My wife is in labor.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Good luck to you. Congratulations. Mr. Vic DiFilippo? Is there anyone else after Mr. DiFilippo who would like to make a comment, or to testify? I want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity. (no response) Good morning, Mr. DiFilippo.

V I C T O R D i F I L I P P O: I have a hearing problem. Could you speak a little louder? I beg your indulgence while I am making the presentation, which I think is a problem and an answer. Then, I can stop there, if you want to ask questions. I do not think this will take too long, and in my saying what I am going to say, it may also reveal what some of these other speakers have said. I have to be candid with you, I haven't heard them too well, but I did get the gist of what they were talking about, the participation of a promoter to get himself responsibly involved in certain things which, obviously, have not been done.

I would like to present something, again, that is going to be on the Federal or the national level. I think that word "Federal" sometimes gets to be too strong, but if you say "national," that means that you are covering the waterfront. It won't take me very long to make these nine statements, and they all will be touching a facet of boxing, and then we can take it from there. If I could do that, that would make it easy for us to have dialogue, and I'm sure that by that time I will get the feeling of your voices, and I probably will get along, unless you have something that you want to ask now that is really important.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: No, I would like to hear your comments, Mr. DiFilippo.

MR. DiFILIPPO: Well, first of all, my relationship to boxing has been always as a sport. It has always been a sport, because my background was in the field of teaching, and when you came to education, even years ago, we were aware that the complete education of a child was not complete if you just worked with the intellectual and with the moral, ethical and spiritual parts of the child. You were leaving something out called the "physical." So, I find myself now in situations where, in elementary schools, in the seventh and eighth grades, boys are being taught how to box. We go to the high schools and we find that in many high schools, especially those that have football teams, there is an empathy between football teams. They also had a group of amateur boxers. Finally, when you go into the college area, you find the same student who started in the seventh and eighth grades. He now comes into college, when they had college teams, and at one time there were several hundred colleges from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific coast, that had teams. Now, a college boxer when he is all through, has a choice of whether or not he wants to go into amateur boxing. As a matter of fact, during his college years, in the senior year, he would be given permission to go into the amateurs. Now, he decides either to go into the amateurs or to go into the professional field.

That answers the question, in a way, of what background does he have, what has been his record, because you can pick up his record from where he started. And, this is about nine years later, and he is asking to become a professional. I feel that if the boxing sport would work some plan where this could become feasible, then the sport of boxing would be put in the same category as baseball, basketball, football, swimming and hockey, where the elementary schools, the high schools, and the colleges feed those sports. Our superiority world-wide certainly doesn't come from a one or two-year training. It comes from having started and done a good job, and having coaches who know their business. At that point there, the sport that is being given all this attention, is a good, healthy sport. There is one thing that I

feel should be said, and that is that all of us in the area of boxing should get involved. We should get involved to solve this problem. However, I think we ought to ask ourselves this question, "Are we part of the problem?" If we are part of the problem, then we better start to clean house, because if the coaches are not doing their jobs, if promoters -- You can sometimes get involved in a situation where there is a conflict of interest, but it can be legal, and yet there is a conflict of interest there sometimes, and sometimes you have to understand that this is something that he does professionally, so you go along with it. There is nothing wrong with any of these posts, starting with a second, a trainer or a handler. All of these people should have expertise in their own areas.

Now, if we go ahead with the following suggestions, I think some of these things will work out, not automatically, but will work out as soon as you implement these suggestions. I think you may get answers to some of the problems that were discussed, and some of the questions you asked.

All right, number one, professional boxing should be under national, or if you want to call it Federal, or if you want to call it a wedding of a national and a Federal representation, so that you get -- Now, you get the judgment, not only of people who are Federally assigned, although I should think the Federal government would assign people who have expertise, but just to make sure. We have people who basically may even be political assignments. Now, we have another group, the national group, and the fact that we do not have a national group means we can never then work on that level. So, we have to first make a Federal group, fine. I would like to see a marriage between the Federal group and the so-called national group. This would be very easy if you wanted to do it in the amateur area, because there is an American Amateur Boxing Federation, which superseded the AAU. On that basis, I have to go on with this, and all state Commissions should be regulated by that body.

Two, all individuals in professional boxing should be registered. Now, we talked about computerizing all kinds of records and so forth. This could be done so that a rating system of all boxers should be determined by that Federal body. Matches should be made and approved or disapproved by a Federal Board of Supervisors. Again, all of these people who will hold these jobs will be experts and, if you are worried about the salaries, I think it is about time that the professional boxing trade, or professional boxing people who are promoting, at this time ought to underwrite, the same way that most sports have done. When a college gives a scholarship to a young man and brings him in for basketball, they are doing exactly that sort of thing. They are underwriting the fact that he has skill, and they want to use him. If money is going to be the problem, what with the millions of dollars they are paying to boxers today, and with the television exposure, I do not think money should be a problem, because there is so much of it floating around, why can't it come down to protecting the very thing that makes these millions of dollars? If that doesn't make sense, then I'm afraid that boxing is not going to be very successful. I have seen in the last year -- I have watched the caliber of boxing, and I see a lot of older men in the State of New Jersey -- thirty-five is the limit, but they can get permission to box at a later age -- but I have seen that, and I wonder why do they have to go to the senior citizen group to get matches. Now, that would not happen if we had that flow of those who had been instructed and coached by the physical education teachers, or the specialists who are brought in. This is why I said before, this is not something that can be done right away, but you can plant the seeds now, and as you go along, in the end, the professional group will probably be the ones who get the most out of this

thing, because they are in it as a business. That is perfectly all right, but as businessmen, I think they should protect their interest, and sit down with the State people, and with the national people, and work out something.

The next thing I am going to say will be that a retirement program and an action concern should be mandated for all professional boxers. I have seen, over the years, a blind man selling pencils, and he was a former professional. He was a former amateur. I have seen two young boxers who I had been involved with when they were Golden Glovers, one of them is in a saloon and he is cleaning up the saloon. He is a former National Golden Glove Champion. I have seen the other one who -- I do not want to mention names -- was a world champion, who is in the CYO in Chicago, and he is emptying the cuspidors and cleaning up all the junk from the floor, and he is a former champion middleweight who had been a champion eastern Golden Glover. Then, after that, he went all the way to the top. Now, looking at him, that man has gone from there down to here. I don't know what the State Athletic Commission in Illinois does, but I'm sure that they should be ashamed of themselves. I could use a stronger word. Here is a champion who has just been left on his own, and the poor guy doesn't know what to do. And he wasn't punch-drunk, at least I don't think he was. Punch-drunk is used effectively, because if he was punch-drunk, then certainly it is even worse. I think that he probably had shown some signs and, when you lose your title, it doesn't take long to lose your place in the sun, and the first thing you know, you are back where you started, but this time you are so old that you can't bail out and go on your own, and the only job you can get is emptying cuspidors. So, take it from there, but let me say this. Health information and supervision should be controlled by doctors who are qualified as sports medicine doctors. There is no reason to believe that a physician has the expertise in all areas. You know if you have gone to a doctor and said, "Look, I'm having eye trouble," and he said to you, "Which eye, the left eye or the right eye?"-- The medical profession is now so spread out that, unless you go to the expert, the general practitioner, the guy who used to come over to the house in the middle of the night, these people are gone. So, you have your orthodontist, you have your orthopedic man, you have the men who are radiologists, and so forth. On that basis, we'll get back to the fact that we should have sports medicine doctors who, if they have a weakness, are not the complete answer to it, but if they have had some experience in sports, and most of them do, then I think there is a balance there. They know how to take care of the problem because they can rationalize from their own experiences.

Now, I can't guarantee all of the sports medicine people, but there are some who have become well-known, who are available, and I would like to see one of those men make the final judgment. We talked about the stopping of a bout. The referee is the first one to have that particular assignment. If the referee doesn't do that, then, in some places, the representative of the Commission in that state can step in and he can stop it. However, if there is a doctor there, the referee would be very stupid if he did not go into a consultation with the doctor and say, "Look, doctor, what do you think about this man?" The doctor then has to take the responsibility. He has the expertise. On that basis, you can't be faulted. As a matter of fact, you can't be sued, because you have had special, expert advice and judgment, and that is the way it goes.

I'm sorry that Art Mercante hasn't been able to make it. I think he is the type of referee that I would not worry about. I would not worry about sending my son in there when Art is in there, but I can tell you this. I would worry a lot

if he went in there with some of the referees that are being used. To me it seems that, with no record of anything in sports, let alone boxing, he probably is a political appointee, or he knows somebody who knows somebody. That wouldn't happen -- through the Federal organization that wouldn't happen, because all coaches and all trainers and all officials would be certified by the Federal Commission and, if they did not have the training that they should have, or the expertise, then the Federal body would, through seminars and workshops and clinics and other types of exposure to that sport, train these people and, if that didn't work out, if the man couldn't meet the requirements to be a referee, then there are plenty of other people who want to be referees. The boxing sport is a very popular sport, so I don't think you would have any trouble getting good, trained officials and, again, when I think of it, I don't think the State Commission should exist. It should work with the Federal group, because it is true, that in different parts of the country there are -- A man working in the southern part of the country may have a philosophy of his own, and a man working up in the New York area can see way beyond just boxing, he can see a lot of money and so forth, and that sort of thing there can't be stopped unless we put this Federal organization in. With the help of computers, you can have data that comes out and you don't have to worry about, "Did he box seven days ago?" You just push that computer. The man's name is in there; he has been classified; it will show the last time he had an examination, and so forth.

A research program to improve the headgear and the gloves that are used in boxing should be initiated. I know that when you mention headgear there are some people in this boxing arena that do not want headgear used. Now, they give various reasons, the headgear doesn't fit right, it slips, the headgear is another weight that has to be carried, etc.. Suppose we find that we can make a headgear that is light, that is resilient, that will not absorb a punch, for example, because it is made through a chemistry of material and that fits on his head and doesn't slip all over, and now he is protected. I'll tell you one thing. The chances are that with the present gloves, which have also been checked out, and I'm speaking on the basis of reports of studies and surveys -- gloves and the boxing headgear -- the headgear alone can make the difference between a knockout in which a man comes out of it rather quickly, and a knockout in which the man doesn't come out of it and he dies. There is little said about gloves, and there is something about gloves on which you should do a little bit of searching. A glove starts with a certain amount of power in it, and after one punch, the second punch becomes a harder punch than the first one. The third punch becomes still harder, so that that glove, and it is brand new, by the time that a man is hit, say seven or eight times, the last punch is the most vicious one of all. So, gloves have to be checked out. Gloves can be fixed through a new concept that I happen to be associated with. We have our own committee for the prevention of injuries in contact sports. Maybe I should say collision sports, because somewhere I heard, "Is dancing going to be included?", because that is contact. Let's call it collision. Now, in collision sports, hockey, football, and naturally, boxing, and what have you, at this point here I think that the boxing profession, all of the people in it, should be very interested in what is going to happen. I think that eventually, very shortly, a helmet will come out and a set of gloves will come out, and maybe the thumbless glove. We have something to play with; that is a pretty good start. It is hard to get accustomed to that glove in the beginning, and I can appreciate boxers saying, "It feels awkward," but, if they work it out, that thumb will go at right angles. That thumb now is like this (witness demonstrates what he means), and

it is very hard to make a fist with this thing sticking out. If you go in there and work it in, you'll see that you find your grip, and you are a little bit more confident that this glove is going to help you. It can help you, but it is not the answer. There has to be something that goes beyond that. The padding in the glove has to be such that when a man is hit, it disperses the power of the blow. Now, you say, "Well, look, suppose this eliminates all knockouts?", well, that is when the fight game comes back to being boxing. Now, the boxers will have to score points and will have to show the art of boxing. There are, incidentally, about 185 combinations of offensive blows, and there are about 250 combinations of defensive blows, and for the first time you see the kind of boxing that maybe you haven't seen since Sugar Ray, or even the young Slattery, that type of boxing where the man moves around and hits hard too, but has all the grace of a ballet dancer, except that these men are in a sport where you cannot lower your guard, because if you do, you are going to get hit. You are getting hit with a glove, however, which is not lethal, but that glove has power and it counts as a point, or whatever the scoring system is. It is very easy then.

You were talking about the showing of the score of the previous last round. This was done at North Carolina University some years ago, and it was done down at Annapolis some years ago, putting up the score at the end of every bout. You said, though, that the score should be entered now so that it is preserved and cannot be changed, but once you flash it up there, it starts the same hullabaloo as it does when you announce at the end, except that now you get it every round. But, you can hope that the judge and the referee will put down their scores, and once they put them down, they can't be tampered with.

There are mistakes that are made, but sometimes these mistakes are not rigged unintentionally. They are rigged because of some kind of agreement, I am positive because I have been told, "Well, we didn't really cheat much, but if we do our ear like this, you just give them a ten," or give them a five, or whatever the top score is. So, then you come out with three men with maybe a 2% difference in three scores. It just can't work out that way -- once, twice, but so many times, it isn't even funny.

I think I have said as much as I feel is necessary at this point. I don't think we should disagree to the point where we get mad and we don't talk to each other anymore. Incidentally, Mr. Arcel is a splendid example of a man who knows his business. Mercante, if he had been here, would qualify as the referee of all times, as I said. For other officials who have to get involved, there are short seminars. As a matter of fact, there are not many books on boxing, so that very few people can learn from a book. But, there are some books, and there are some written materials. I remember that at one time we, through the Navy, the Merchant Marine, the Coast Guard and the Air Force here and the Air Force in Europe, wrote a lot of manuals in those days, and they were boxing manuals. They were manuals that were used to teach boxing to all the soldiers, all the sailors, and so forth. It was a sort of mass teaching, which is probably what they should be using when they are training in the schools. You do not train one on one; you train them as if you were training in basketball. You have a mass preparation. They answer and reply and respond to a command from you, or a suggestion from you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I would appreciate it, Mr. DiFilippo, if you could provide the Committee with data on the headgear and the new glove you are working on.

MR. DiFILIPPO: Well, the reason I can't is because the patent is pending, and has to be protected.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: All right, but when you can, I would appreciate it.

MR. DiFILIPPO: Yes, yes. I'll even whisper it to you, but it is something that is exciting. It is something that is so exciting that if it does happen, 50% of the negative things that we worry about will disappear. We will not have to worry then about who is to take the discredit for the knockdown or for making a call when the man is still standing and yet he is counted out. Incidentally, there has been a lot of positive expression that the standing eight count should be carefully evaluated.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I know. We discussed that earlier before you came in; Mr. Arcel addressed that.

MR. DiFILIPPO: May I ask a question? Was the opinion positive against it?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Against it.

MR. DiFILIPPO: Against it. Well, I know this; I heard in one of the articles that reacted to the Kim thing that the eight count only covers an incompetent decision. That is true in a way, but maybe it's lucky that this one was incompetent and, by him making a personal mistake, he has saved a human life.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I appreciate you coming today. If you could forward any data to the Committee, I would greatly appreciate it.

MR. DiFILIPPO: I can ask, I mean, if you want to ask questions -- I don't want to trust myself. I can hear you, but I have had a little trouble with Assemblyman LaCorte. Your voice seems to carry, and I appreciate that you are speaking a little louder.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Okay, thank you.

MR. DiFILIPPO: Okay, you're welcome.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Is there anyone else? Yes, sir. Someone else would like to testify.

A L M O O R E: Mr. Chairman, my name is Al Moore. I have been a registered, licensed manager and a second for the past twenty-some years. I am now Director of the Lou Costello Sportsmen Club in Paterson, which is an amateur boxing club.

I would like to say that in this State, in my time as a manager, Mr. Lee and Mr. Walcott have done more for this State in the progress of boxing than anybody before them. I say this for the simple reason that things are better than they ever were. This is not a sport; this is a business in this State, and you know this more than I do, because the revenues that come from it help to keep the taxes down, and so forth.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I hope you're right.

MR. MOORE: Well, without it, where are you going to find it? But, anyway, getting back to what you were saying about making things better, we need more money coming back from the State into the boxing game to build it up the way it should be built. You were talking about medical things. When a boxer gets licensed, it should automatically operate as they do in New York. It should be set up with a central office, a boxing commission office, where you have your own medical technicians there to take the head test, the EKG and everything, with a doctor on duty, the same as they do in New York. It is all paid for when you get licensed. It is in your licensing fee.

As far as the medical records of the fighters and the fights they participated in, Mr. Lee has started to ask for a boxing license which carries a record of every fight. The fighter is supposed to take it from one state to another, everywhere he goes. They are controlling this more than they had been. If you go to Pennsylvania, you have to submit your New Jersey license. If your fighter is TKOed or knocked out, the license is held and is sent back to the New Jersey Commission with that information, so that the New Jersey Commission knows that that boy was knocked out on such and such a date by so and so. So, the record is clear. What you need to do, is to get more money, even if you have to increase the license fees, and set up a central Commission office where all the licensed fighters come to, and it is all taken care of on your passport license. They get their head tests, their EKGs, their chest x-rays, whatever.

At the present time on knockouts, there is a thirty-day -- If a fighter is TKOed, it is thirty days anyway. I think it should be no more than at least sixty days. Fighters make a living, some of them. You are putting a guy out of work. That is what you are automatically doing, not that he shouldn't be out of work, don't misunderstand me. If there is something wrong with him, he deserves it.

You were talking about keeping a running total on the score. Take figure skating, gymnastics, how do they keep the score on those sports? There is no instant score.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Until the performance is over -- they do not have interruptions. Boxing is the only sport.

MR. MOORE: Right, I agree with that. But, at the same time, the judging and the scoring to me is immaterial as far as the conditioning of the fighter and the safety of the fighter are concerned.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I am not talking about conditioning; I'm talking about the ethics.

MR. MOORE: Because, when you come to scoring, you take in judges, and that takes in a lot of consideration, because everybody sees things differently.

You were talking about the flu. You played football, I presume, and, as a matter of fact, I know you did. Did you ever play hurt?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I've played hurt.

MR. MOORE: You played hurt many times, didn't you?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I had ten other guys.

MR. MOORE: Right, you had ten other guys, but with ten other guys, there is no saying what the other eleven guys on the other team are going to do to you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I did not play for money either.

MR. MOORE: I know. Well, we're not talking about money all the time either. The colleges are just as bad. If you go to school on a scholarship, you have to perform. They are paying good money for you to perform, and I have known a lot of boys who have gone to college and performed with novacaine injections and so forth, and everything else. Nobody worries about the college players. I don't hear anybody having meetings to determine what should be done for safety in college sports. How many college football players -- everyday they get concussions in practice, with headgear on, better headgear than what we have. But, they still get concussions, so headgear is not the answer either, Basically, condition is the answer, and good doctors, and they can't do it without money. If you give these two men over here the money to operate the Commission the way it should be operated, you'll have the best Commission in the country.

I have been to California; I say there are a lot of things they do that maybe I don't agree with and so forth, but in California you have to be there a week before the fight. Your fighter has to be in the state a week before the fight. I have been out there, and you no sooner get off the plane than the first thing they do is take you for a head test, an eye test, a urine test, a blood test -- you go for everything, the first day. And, if you do not pass those tests, you go home. When you are talking about safety and things like that, this is where it comes in. But, if you do not have the money to do it, you're not going to do it.

Mr. Duva was talking about contracts and so forth, and matchmakers and promoters; you know, that is their business. But, when you sign a fighter up, a young boy, a good prospect, you sign him up to a two-year contract by law in the State of New Jersey. Now, you want to sign up with a promoter, you can't sign for less than three years. So, after your contract runs out in two years, you have lost a fighter, because the promoter ends up with the fighter. Mr. Duva didn't tell you that. But, I know, I've been in the business, and I have lost fighters too.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: That will be an area the Committee will be addressing at subsequent hearings, but I just wanted to hear --

MR. MOORE: (interrupting) I have discussed this with Mr. Lee; we fight all the time on contracts, because you take a young kid, seventeen or eighteen years old, turning pro. It takes two years to build a kid; it should be a four-year minimum contract -- or maximum contract rather, at least, because the promoter is not going to give you a contract for that kid for less than three years. That is the reason they do that. He is worried about them stealing his fighter when Ayali fights for the title. That is what he is worried about.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: If he fights for the title.

MR. MOORE: He'll fight. Believe me when I tell you, he'll fight.

Also, you were talking about experience for seconds and corner men, so to speak. In New York, they have a system. If you have an "A" license, you work inside the ring; a "B" license is outside the ring. He cannot work inside. In order to categorize these, you would have to have seminars, which the State can conduct. This is how these fellows get their experience to earn from a "B" license to an "A" license. You are compelled to attend so many seminars within a certain period of time -- within a year, I guess, to earn your "A" rating. If you do not attend the seminars, you automatically stay as a "B."

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: That is in New York?

MR. MOORE: That is in New York. I think the doctors we have on hand now are adequate, but I don't think we have enough of them. Again I say, it is probably monetary, the reason we do not have them, because they do not work for nothing.

Is there anything else that you would like to ask me?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: You touched upon quite a few areas, some areas that we are going to be addressing. You talked about playing hurt. The reason why I have a concern about that, is that wasn't brought out, to anyone's knowledge, until after the fight. If you are going to play hurt, it should be to everyone's knowledge before you get in the ring, number one, and, number two, he was in violation of the rules that exist today.

MR. MOORE: Could I interrupt you a minute?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Sure.

MR. MOORE: The fighter himself was in violation of the rule, because the doctor personally, even a baby doctor, will pick up the flu. But, the fighter

himself, when he filled out his application, his medical application, did not state that he had the flu.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: We could place the blame on promoters; there are many people we could place the blame on.

MR. MOORE: I agree with you, because more people knew that he had the flu than just the fighter. I agree with you there. There was a situation that happened to me on national television. Everybody was going to cut my throat, right? But, everybody knew about it, even the fighter. He did not put it down on the application when he made out his medical statement for the doctor. He did not declare it. So, everybody is wrong; it is not just one person, but the fighter himself should have declared it. After the fight, if he lost the fight, then he would cry that he lost it because he had the flu.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Right.

MR. MOORE: But, if he had any sense, he would not have fought, and he would have come back another day.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Thank you, unless you have anything else to say.

MR. MOORE: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I appreciate you taking the time out. Yes?

B E R N I E T A Y L O R: My name is Bernie Taylor. I am the head trainer at the Lou Costello Sportsmen Club. I am an ex-paramedic and first aid instructor besides. I have been in the boxing game for over forty years. I have seen them come and go; I have seen those that hold interest and those that just play the game, shall we say. In other words, they need a buck, and they are willing to get in there. We run into those types too. However, our club deals with only one guy, the guy who wants to fight, the guy who wants to train, and the guy that is in condition. I think the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner can verify that when we bring a fighter, he comes to fight, and he is in shape.

As far as the Commissioner is concerned, I, too, have to say, as far as the State of New Jersey is concerned, it should be proud that it has the two gentlemen in there that it has right now, because they have done more than the last four Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners that I know of. Believe me when I tell you this. And, they are not only interested in improving boxing, they are interested in protecting the fighter, and they have been ever since they have been in there. Again, I have to say, if these people are given the money, which they are not -- I have heard talk that they are going to get it, but when? I have heard this for better than twenty years, that the Boxing Commission is going to be given money. But, when? I have seen people like you before, sir, up there too on committees, but what have they done? They have talked and asked questions, but nothing has ever come from it. And, like we say, today New Jersey is really in the spotlight and is the Mecca of boxing. These gentlemen are not going to be able to do it on their own. You know yourself. You are given a lot of jobs to do, but you can only do so much. They try to run you like a horse, and you better start looking like one. That is the way I look at it.

Now, as far as the other thing is concerned, I have heard a lot of talk about head gear, and so on. I think one of the main interests should be that the interest of the boxers comes first, in my book. I think after that, the trainers and the managers and the seconds, whoever is working with them, should be qualified -- definitely qualified, because there are certain seconds and certain trainers who are asked to work with other individuals, but they do not know the individual they are working with. They only know their own men, and that is the way it should be.

But, those who have the qualifications, and who have been around, can work with almost anybody, and this is what it should be.

I also believe that additional seminars should be conducted, whether it is done on a monthly basis, a quarterly basis or a semiannual basis, but not only for the trainers and the seconds and the managers, it should be done for the so-called qualified officials also, which I do not think is being done. I think if you went right now and asked certain officials what makes them qualified, probably some of them couldn't even give you the answer, the way I have looked at some of them. I am not trying to degrade any of them; don't misunderstand me. These things can happen, but remember there are placed around the ring certain locations, and people see certain things from different areas, but, also, when you start getting, shall we say, lopsided scores, something is definitely wrong.

These are the things I think should be handled through the Commission, and this is the reason I am pointing out that there should be some training for those people, no matter how qualified they are. I do not think we can go too far, as far as training is concerned. I am a philosophical believer in "you never know too much. You can always learn something." As I said, I have been in this game for over forty years, and I am still learning things. It comes everyday. But, again, I want to emphasize the fact that you should be proud that we have the people in that office that we do have.

As far as the headgear is concerned, when I was in the service I ran a survey for the Army on headgear. Headgear can protect you from getting cut, is what our committee came up with, but to protect you from getting knocked out -- no way will it protect you from getting knocked out. It can prevent you from getting cut, but you can still get cut, even with the headgear, from an elbow. So, this is something that the Committee has to weigh; it is something the Commission has to weigh. I think the people in our Commission now realize this and they know it, and this is why they don't make it mandatory. In the professionals, it is not mandatory. In the amateurs, in some states it is mandatory, and in some places it is optional. Take the New Jersey Golden Gloves going on right now, it's optional. A kid can wear headgear, or he can't wear headgear, whatever he desires.

But, these are the things that have to be weighed as far as your Committee is concerned.

I also have another outlook on the so-called two-minute round. In my opinion, if a guy is trained and trained properly, and he is physically fit, and I mean in top condition, not one-third of his top condition, he can go four three-minute rounds with no problem. When you get up to your ten, twelve and fifteen-round bouts, if you want to cut them down, I see nothing wrong with that. As far as championship bouts are concerned, they have been fifteen rounds for many, many years, and before that they were longer. In my opinion, if a guy is in top shape, and in the physical condition he should be in, I see nothing wrong with the fifteen-round bout either. I think that is all I have for you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I appreciate your comments; thank you. Yes?

D A V E B O N T E M P O: Mr. Chairman, my name is Dave Bontempo; I am a sports writer for the Atlantic City Press. You did invite me to speak here. Normally I would feel that the roles of a journalist and a participant should be separate, but I just feel compelled to say, after watching the hearings and looking at what is going on, that after seeing approximately 125 fights in Atlantic City in 1982, I can tell you that with more casinos being built, the fight traffic is probably going to increase even more than it is now and, having seen the fights, I can tell you

firsthand that the Commission is understaffed. That is really all I want to say.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I think that is the consensus we all agree with. I would hope that in the appropriation process they are afforded the opportunity to increase their staff, and their salaries. So, I agree with you, and I am not aware of anyone who does not agree with that stand.

MR. BONTEMPO: Right, and I think with the increased traffic you are going to have a lot of fights being put together at the last minute, and I think you should force the Commission to be very tough on these new people.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I agree. Thank you. Anyone else? Commissioner Walcott?

COMMISSIONER JOSEPH WALCOTT: Thank you, sir. I have just been sitting there and listening to the many comments being made in a general sense, but very little has been said about the things that are being done in New Jersey.

I started to box when I was fifteen years old, and I finished my last fight when I was forty years old. When I became Commissioner they were having two-minute round fights, and they were having six or seven bouts a year in New Jersey. We have changed from having a judge as the only official to two judges along with the referee. This year we decided that in the best interest of boxing, and for the best protection of the fighter, to appoint three judges, and just let the referee officiate and watch the fighters as they fought, to protect them from any injury.

We have initiated in each corner one of our inspectors, in between rounds, to hear the conversations in the corners for the protection of the fighters, to find out what is being said in regard to his condition. We have instructed our referees that anytime a fighter looks to be in danger, in any form or in any fashion, not to hesitate for a minute to call the doctor. Mr. Lee and I -- either both of us, or one of us is at each fight, to assist the referee. When a fighter looks like he is being pummeled or looks like he is unable to protect himself, we almost beat a hole in the ring to tell the referee to stop the fight for the protection of the fighter.

Boxing is a great sport; there is a great interest in boxing today. Before the casinos came into effect, we solicited businessmen throughout the State, lawyers, doctors, and businessmen, to participate and to take a part in promoting, managing, and handling youngsters. We have been somewhat successful in engaging them in the game. Today, youngsters are emulating some of the older fighters. Some of them are well-managed; some of them are poorly managed. We have been trying desperately to guide youngsters. When a fight is over, we do not allow anyone to accept the fighter's money except the fighter, and what he does with it we have no control over. But, after the fight, we demand that the money is paid to the fighter, to protect his welfare.

I think this was a good meeting. Last week or so, we just had a seminar. We had trainers, doctors, boxers and managers there, and referees, all exploring the next thing we can do for the protection of the boxing game in New Jersey. I feel that it was very successful. We do not have them as often as we would like. We attempt to go to various gymnasiums in the State when fighters are going to box here in New Jersey. We are unable to attend them all, because we do not have that type of staff, but we do as much as we can. We want to insist that fighters who are from out-of-state, in the preliminaries, at least be in the State and notify us of the

gym they are training in, so we can send someone, or go ourselves, to see the condition of the fighters. At this point, we are unable to do that.

There are so many things needed. You know, a lot of people are "Monday-morning quarterbacks." They can observe something, and then develop their own opinion, right or wrong, and criticize it, regardless of how good or how different it would be in their opinions. We work hard in this game, and I am happy that this Committee is concerned. We need a lot of help; there are a lot of things needed in boxing for the protection of the game. We have tried desperately to get computers. At each fight we have two or three doctors, and the minute a fighter is in trouble, the referee is instructed to call a doctor in to examine the fighter, to see if he should continue. If the referee doesn't call the doctor in quick enough, one of us will bang the ring to tell him to either stop it or call a doctor. This is the interest that we are concerned about; the most important thing is the fighter. There have been a lot of things said here in a general sense, but very little has been said about what is happening here in New Jersey. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Commissioner, I appreciate you coming today. I had the opportunity, with Mr. Lee, to go through the dressing areas at a series of bouts, and I saw firsthand the care that is given to the participants. I think you realize that this is an honest commitment by this Committee. This is an ongoing dialogue that we have now had, something that you may not have had in the past. I would like to be kept abreast of any appropriation problem, and any staffing problems, as I said a year ago to you. If I can help you in any way, or, if this Committee can help you in any way, I would like you to contact me. The Attorney General's Office is well aware of my interest on your behalf, toward increasing appropriations, and solving your staffing problems. I believe legislation is going to emanate from these hearings. I appreciate any input from the Commission, and there will be subsequent hearings I'm sure, at least one, and probably two, in the very near future to discuss other areas. I appreciate and invite your attendance, and your input. The sooner we can have these hearings and the sooner we can get into strong dialogue with participation from the professionals involved, whether it be promotion, management or the actual participants, the sooner we can act upon the problems that exist.

The Committee had indicated last year that we would meet in early 1983 -- we are in the beginning of 1983 now -- and hopefully we are going to resolve some of the problems. Again, I invite your participation, and I really welcome you here today. I commend you for the job you have done.

MR. WALCOTT: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Is there anyone else? Yes, sir?

FROM AUDIENCE: May I make a brief statement?

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Sure.

B I L L S A V A G E: My name is Bill Savage. I have been actively participating in the sport of boxing for forty years in every capacity known. I am the former trainer and manager of Dwight Muhammed Qawi. I am currently training Joe Louis Manley, who has a ten and one record, among others, but I am not here to extol my virtues; I just wanted to introduce myself.

I would like to suggest to the Committee that it address the subject of the options in contracts, in terms of any probable or prospective legislation that might be passed. I am certain that promoters, who surround themselves with good legal advice, must be on legal ground, but they are certainly on unethical grounds. Mr. Duva very, very artfully skipped over some of the things in terms of contracts

and options. He did it very well, but those of us in this business know better. Okay? One of his statements was, and I think I will quote him, "It only happens in championship fights." That is not true -- not true. Even the (inaudible) promoters in the State of New Jersey attempt to, or do, tie up your fighters and make you an offer. If you do not promise or give them a percentage of your fighter, you will not be used. This is a known thing. Now, if it is legal, it is certainly not ethical. If it is unethical, I think the Committee and all the people concerned with boxing, who have its best interest at heart, should address themselves to it. There must be some way to stop that type of thing.

Now, as to the safety in the sport of boxing, some of these things I have just mentioned are the root causes of it not being safe. You are saying to me, or to the Committee, or to the world, that a promoter has spent two years building a fighter. Now, what does that mean, building a fighter? Why is a promoter building a fighter in the first place? The managers and trainers build the fighters. When he says "building a fighter," does he mean then that he puts this fighter on his show and produces for him an opponent that he knows he can beat up on? This in itself is a root cause for mismatches and for some of the injuries that occur.

So, these are the things that were not said, that must be said, if this Committee is to perform the function for which I drove from Atlantic City to here. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Let me say this, Mr. Savage. I am aware of your background, and it is a pleasure to have you here today. But, the Committee intends to address that area. That is why, if you noticed, those questions were initiated from up here. They were not volunteered by anyone else. We are aware of how artfully the responses were given, but I think, in subsequent hearings, the Committee will then begin to concentrate on promotion and options. However, I can understand and appreciate what you're saying about opponents being presented to fight. That is why we are having this hearing today, and that is why we initiated those questions. We were hoping that we would have more people from the promotion area here today, but, for whatever reason, they could not attend, and asked to attend at subsequent hearings. We are going to be getting into that area. I assure you that that will be an area addressed by the Committee.

To you, also, I appreciate and invite your input to subsequent hearings.

MR. SAVAGE: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Is there anyone else? (no response) I thank you all for attending today, and if you have subsequent communication with the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the staff and, hopefully, we will have an ongoing dialogue. Yes, sir.

MR. DiFILIPPO: Buddy, I'm sorry that I didn't have the presence of mind to say that the gentleman sitting next to me is going to be one of the persons who is going to be making contributions to boxing. He is the President of Future Sports USA. He has already made studies and surveys in other sports and, as a former boxer, amateur and professional, himself, he is very much interested in boxing. If the State Commission wants the help of an expert in the field of the chemistry and sophistication of different types of machines and robots that react to certain types of punches, and so forth, this man has done it, and he is willing to do it for the love of the game. We are working together now, and the things I said are going to be made should come out the way they should because of the expertise here and the engineers, and the people who work with him.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: I'm sure the Commissioner would --

MR. DiFILIPPO: And, he is available to you anytime you need him.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: -- invite any data you have. The Committee, also, would invite any communication or any data or any presentation you would like to make.

MR. DiFILIPPO: His name is David Lewis, and he is available anytime.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Thank you very much. You will be hearing about subsequent hearings; you will be notified.

(HEARING CONCLUDED)



