



PUBLIC HEARING

Before

*2/24/59*  
Assembly, Committee on Public Safety, Defense and Veterans Affairs

on

ACR No. 7 - Proposed Constitutional Amendment - State Conducted Lotteries

Held:

Assembly Chamber  
State House  
Trenton, New Jersey  
February 24, 1959

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MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Assemblyman Frank E. Meloni (Chairman)  
Assemblyman Robert F. Sabello  
Assemblyman Isadore Laufer  
Assemblyman John J. Wilson

also

Assemblyman William V. Musto

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ASSEMBLYMAN FRANK E. MELONI (Chairman): The public hearing on ACR No. 7 will now come to order.

Ladies and gentlemen: My name is Frank Meloni, Assemblyman from Camden County. I am Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety, Defense and Veterans Affairs. With me today are Assemblyman Sabello and Assemblyman Laufer.

We are here to hold a public hearing on Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 7, which proposes a Constitutional Amendment to permit State lotteries for the support of important State functions.

I have asked the sponsor of the Resolution, Assemblyman Musto of Union City, to sit with the Committee today.

Before we begin I should like to emphasize that favorable action on this Resolution by the Legislature would not authorize a State lottery. It would place the question on the ballot in the general election next November in order that the public could decide. I believe this should be taken into consideration by those on both sides of the question.

Furthermore, I think it should be emphasized that neither Mr. Musto nor any member of the Committee would consider the legalization of gambling in New Jersey. We do feel, however, that the public authorization of bingo and raffles by charitable organizations is closely allied with the question proposed by the resolution we have under consideration, since the revenue derived from any lottery would be used in the public interest. Many organizations have placed requests before the Legislature for new or increased expenditures. Some have suggested methods for raising the necessary additional revenues; others have not.

With these requests in mind, we have invited representatives of those organizations to come here today to voice their views on this proposal. In addition, we have invited representatives of many other organizations which may have an interest, either directly or indirectly.

Although most of you are familiar with public hearings, for those of you who are not I wish to point out that the purpose of such a hearing is to enable all sides of a question to be heard. In this way the Committee hopes to gain both information and an indication of public sentiment in order that it may act in the best interest of the State as a whole.

I would like to ask that you confine your remarks to the issue at hand.

We have quite a number of people who wish to be heard and we want to see that everyone who wishes to speak may do so. If you have a prepared statement, we would appreciate your submitting it to the Committee. As your name is called, please come down to the first aisle on my left, state your name and address and the organization you represent. Please speak into the microphone in order that the stenographer may properly record your remarks.

I might say that since the announcement of this public hearing the Committee has received quite a bit of mail asking permission to participate in this public hearing; a number suggested that the same hearing be held in various sections of the State. Now the Committee is going to take into consideration the various requests made and if it is the wishes of the Committee that hearings be extended, we certainly will do

everything possible to do that.

Now, I would like to call on Rev. Samuel A. Jeanes, General Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance of New Jersey and Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey Council of Churches.

REV. SAMUEL A. JEANES: Mr. Chairman and members of this Committee, might I say that I am very happy to appear before this Committee of which our own Assemblyman, Frank Meloni, is Chairman. We think a great deal of him in Camden County, as well as all of our lawmakers who come from that County up here to Trenton.

I am Samuel A. Jeanes of Merchantville, General Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance of New Jersey and Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey Council of Churches, which represents fifteen state and regional bodies of twelve denominations in New Jersey, and we are unalterably opposed to any further extension of gambling in any form in this State. The Current legislative principles of the New Jersey Council of Churches state, regarding gambling:

"We believe that gambling is a moral and social evil which undermines our economic order, defeats true benevolence, favors the philosophy of getting 'something for nothing,' and leads to individual and social demoralization. Petty gambling, under whatever name, offers the greatest and most widespread appeal to those who are least able to afford it. We, therefore, favor legislation that would eliminate legalized public gambling in New Jersey and that would rigidly control the same now in existence."

The Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 7 that is before this Committee would introduce into the State a new form of gambling, namely, a State lottery. The objects for which the legalization of this form of gambling is sought are not unworthy ones. However, the worth of the objects does not justify the means that this legislation proposes. Education is the problem of all of the citizens. State Institutions are a concern for all of the people. Every citizen has benefited by the sacrificial service rendered by our military men and women. We are all dependent upon state, county and local roads. However, this legislation would say in substance, "We will not expect all of the citizens to bear their fair share of taxation for these worthy causes and services upon their ability to pay, but rather we will expect only the people who are the victims of the gambling neurosis to bear these fair costs of government."

We are not surprised that proposals like this are made because men are looking for miracles to happen to pay the cost of government and the services we must extend to our citizens.

Take a long look, however, at what such proposals could do. It is a matter of fact that the participants in most gambling are not those who are best able to pay, but rather those who are least able to resist the temptation to gamble. These are the people whom the State should protect and certainly not exploit. Do not overlook the fact that this proposed lottery could have an unfortunate impact upon the standard of living of many families. Heads of families could succumb to the chance of big stakes and pour sizable sums of the family income into lotteries. It is ironical for our labor organizations to work to raise the salary level of thousands of workers only to have their salary increases poured into a lottery where most people stand to lose.

Would our lawmakers want to see this gambling mania encouraged to the point where every community in the State began to depend upon gambling receipts for the conduct of its affairs?

How much gambling can our economy stand? There are four States in our nation in which more than \$200,000,000 were wagered in pari-mutuel betting last year. These States were New York, California, New Jersey and Illinois. New Jersey has the smallest population of these States, yet our per capita of money gambled was the highest--a per capita of \$51.00. The money wagered at Bingo-Raffles brings that per capita to \$55.00. We believe that the pocketbooks of the families of this State cannot stand much more of this wasteful drain without undermining our economy. Every year we have been pouring over \$280,000,000 into the pari-mutuel machines. For most of the people involved this money spent resulted in "nothing for something". This money could have been invested in productive enterprises. It could have been exchanged for food, clothing, homes, automobiles, medical and dental care, or even education, which is one of the excuses of this proposal before us today. But what happens to this huge sum of money every year? Perhaps the citizens of New Jersey ought to be provided with a detailed financial statement from the race tracks. These tracks were established after a referendum and constitutional amendment which would place them in a quasi-public category. The people have a right to know where this money goes.

We do know that the State last year received \$23,886,610 in tax revenue from the tracks. This is a sizable sum of money, but it represents less than 6% of the total annual income of the State and is the equivalent of revenue that a tax of less than one and one-half cents on every gallon of gasoline would bring into the State coffers. This tax revenue is small in relation to the large amounts handled at the tracks. It is also small in relation to the total State budget. And we would add, that the very existence of any form of legalized gambling gives occasion to the rise of attendant evils that do not contribute to the well-being of the community. The Massachusetts Special Crime Commission appointed by the Legislature of that State reported in 1957, that the very presence of legalized pari-mutuel betting in the New England area gave courage to organized crime and its concomitant evils.

The backward steps we have taken thus far in legalizing forms of gambling have often been justified by arguing that an instinct for gambling exists in most

people. Certainly, we cannot accept as an incontrovertible fact that most people have a basic instinct to take something for which they have not put forth reasonable and sufficient effort or money. But is gambling a natural and inevitable urge? Certainly, it can be curtailed if sufficient controls are placed upon it. If there are weak people in this State who will part with their money in the hope of securing 'fool's gold', we ought to protect these people and certainly not provide new ways to foster their weakness to the detriment of their homes, their families, their communities, as well as themselves. How long will it be before someone will propose slot machines in the supermarkets and drug stores to exploit this human weakness, naming the local town Council or local School Board as the beneficiaries of a bankrupt citizenry whose weaknesses have been exploited by their elected protectors?

The matter of a proposed state lottery has been before the people of Massachusetts. One distinguished citizen, Richard Cardinal Cushing, has added his voice to the thousands of others who oppose such a spread in gambling. He said,

"It is my honest conviction that the lottery, as a form of large-scale gambling, is economically unsound, socially disintegrating and morally dangerous. It is economically unsound because it does not create new sources of revenue but rather draws from those which already exist in ways which tend to disturb the normal and healthy process by which economic prosperity is promoted. It is socially disintegrating because it tends to encourage the desire to get something for nothing and thus to impede the honest effort by which individual men become useful members of society. It is morally dangerous because it creates serious temptations to theft in those who handle money which does not belong to them, and because it stands in the way of prompt and systematic payment of debts and other obligations of justice."

We believe that this legislation is not good for the people of this State and we would respectfully request this Committee to report unfavorably upon it.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Do any members of the Committee have any questions they would like to ask Rev. Jeanes?

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Reverend, I notice you stated that the matter of a proposed state lottery has been before the people of Massachusetts. Was it before the people for a vote?

REV. JEANES: Not for a vote, but as a matter of discussion. In fact, as I understand it, Mr. Assemblyman, the State of Massachusetts has a provision whereby every three or maybe five years the whole matter of the continuation of various forms of legalized gambling is resubmitted to the people. In other words, they can decide whether or not they are satisfied with a continuation of the race track system and various other forms; consequently you get more of an expression of the people. Now, we've had it a good many years and it has never been resubmitted.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: There is one more question, Reverend. I may not agree with your position but I certainly respect it.

REV. JEANES: And that is mutual.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: There is one question I would like to ask. Would you have any objection to submitting this question to the people for a vote, by referendum?

REV. JEANES: I would say this, that when matters of this kind are submitted, the very submission of them represents almost the endorsement of our lawmakers, which adds a great deal of prestige to any question that is presented.

The second thing is that many, many times the opponents

of moral issues of this type do not have the provision, they do not have the funds, they do not have the personnel to adequately present the side of the question that they are interested in. Let's face it, most of the opposition comes from large church organizations and so much of their money is poured into their homes, their hospitals and missionary work all over the world and, consequently, there isn't a great deal left to actually get into campaigning. Moral issues are not always decided properly by a referendum. And I think perhaps one of the best illustrations of that was the referendum of Pilate when he said to the crowd, "What shall we do with Jesus?" and they said, "Crucify Him." Well now, we don't agree with the decision, and yet that was a referendum.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Well you know that many referendums, for example, - not just the one you referred to - have been submitted to the people calling for bond issues to build schools, to aid education, and you know they have been defeated in many of the communities of our State. There have been many reasons given but one of the reasons given is the fact that the people just don't want to pay by property tax any longer in the State of New Jersey; they are looking for other sources of revenue. And one of our problems today is the fact that we are aware of our needs in many things, such as State aid to education, but we just can't seem to come to a conclusion on how to raise the money. I should think, and that's why I submitted to you the question whether you would have any objection to submitting this to the people, that perhaps the people might want to finance State aid to education, help our highways and institutions, etc., and a veterans bonus, by

a lottery method. I think myself that the people might well decide that favorably.

REV. JEANES: And yet, coming back to the statement that I made here, that is not equal taxation. In other words, the person who participates in a lottery is usually the fellow who can't hang on to his money. And there are many, many people who would not share in the cost of education. In other words, it would not really be fairly supported by the whole population.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: You know what they say in New Jersey today - if you don't smoke or drink or go to the race track, you're not paying taxes. So you see, that's a little contrary to your argument.

REV. JEANES: That's right. And yet by the same token we are all enjoying many of the wonderful services that our State offers to the people, our institutions, and frankly, I know it isn't popular to talk about taxes but we all should pay for the things we get.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: We are only concerned with the method of payment.

REV. JEANES: Yes. And, of course, we would be very concerned with this method of raising the money because we don't think it would be shared in by all of the people. Actually, it would be shared in by the people who can least afford it.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Would you compare a State lottery with or say it is similar to a bingo and raffles program?

REV. JEANES: No. I think it's an entirely

different thing. I think it's entirely different.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Are you in favor of bingo?

REV. JEANES: No. Personally, I'm not in favor of bingo but the people of the State have adopted that and I think that the Bingo Commission has been endeavoring to make sure that that money goes into good channels, channels which perhaps in the past have not been able to receive sufficient money to carry on their work. But there again, they are individual organizations and they do not represent the total need of all of the people of the State.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Well, do you feel that the bingo and raffles problem is handled properly in the State of New Jersey.

REV. JEANES: I think the Bingo and Raffles Commission is doing a good job.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Wouldn't you also feel then that it might follow that a State lottery could be handled in a similar fashion, even though you don't agree with a State lottery?

REV. JEANES: I think it could be handled right but, by the same token, I don't think it's a good thing because your objectives are objectives which belong to all the people; your objectives in bingo and raffles are specific objectives that belong to certain groups of people within the State of New Jersey, not shared in by all the people. Everybody uses highways and schools, the Baptists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics and Jewish people, and, consequently, all those people should share in those expenses and I don't think a

State lottery would get to all those people. I know one fellow it won't get to and that's me.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: That portion of your argument, I don't follow. I don't know of any tax that would get everybody, not even the income tax. There isn't any tax that I know of that will get everybody.

REV. JEANES: I grant you that, and yet there are taxes which reach a larger segment of the population, automobile, gasoline, etc.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: That's true. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Are there any further questions? Thank you, Rev. Jeanes.

At this time I would like to call on Mr. Cornelius V. Kelly, Secretary of the Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars' Legislative Committee.

CORNELIUS V. KELLY: Mr. Chairman, Honorable Body of Assemblymen present, distinguished personages representing the various organizations throughout this State and the churches: I was called upon by Department Commander Robert E. Kearny, Commander of the Department of New Jersey of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, with a membership in its Posts and Auxiliaries of approximately 50,000, and due to a business commitment of our Legislative Chairman, S. Ray Fetzer, I was asked to appear here this morning and convey the sentiment and feelings and the actual approval of the Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, its Posts and Auxiliaries, on the matter of ACR No. 7.

I have been instructed to say that, in lieu of anything more practical at the moment, as it pertains particularly to the payment of a veterans bonus the Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars is in favor of ACR No. 7, would like to see it spell out, perhaps, more clearly the advantages that may be had as they pertain to a bonus, as well as the other very fine causes that are contained within the bill for the purposes of which the income would be diverted thereto. We believe that all of the causes are worthy, needy and practical, and long overdue, particularly the payment of a veterans bonus. We approve of it. However, we might say that we do feel that we would like to have the terms spelled out more clearly.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Are there any questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Mr. Kelly, I haven't read my bill for some time but I believe a veterans bonus is provided in the bill, isn't it?

MR. KELLY: Yes. What I say, Assemblyman Musto, is we realize that and that is our big reason for going along with the measure. What we ask is, as in many other measures that have been -- well, the one particularly that was put to the people nearly ten years ago, and the other bill - particularly another bill that spells out definitely the payment of a bonus, by Assemblyman Hauser, terms, conditions, the amount of payment, etc., are all spelled out. We take it, Assemblyman Musto and Assemblyman Meloni that the terms of a payment of a bonus, while they speak broadly of the payment

of a veterans bonus, we honestly and conscientiously believe that you would treat the payment of a bonus in all of the common terms that we know that you understand.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Well, you know that under a bill such as this we couldn't spell out the actual terms of the bonus.

MR. KELLY: It's very broad. We appreciate that. But if this were to be adopted by the people, we would then request that we sit down with you and spell it out. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Thank you. I would now like to call on Assemblyman Francis Werner, sponsor of Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 1, providing for a veterans bonus.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRANCIS J. WERNER: First of all, I want to thank Chairman Meloni and the Committee for conducting these public hearings so that the public in general can get the feeling that perhaps an additional source of revenue can be arrived at.

I certainly would like to speak on ACR No. 7, Assemblyman Musto's bill, even though I have sponsored ACR 1 which definitely spells out a veterans bonus through lottery and no other organization is involved.

I would like to state that conventional methods of taxation have reached a level which has evoked increased public resistance to additional taxes. Yet the need for additional revenue confronts all the legislative bodies annually.

But I would like to take a realistic approach to the bonus for veterans. I am certain that a lottery would mean

no additional taxes, and ACR 7, introduced by Assemblyman Musto, which in my opinion is a very good bill, spells out that the revenues derived from a lottery should be for education, institutions, highways and a veterans bonus.

Certainly we all realize that education, institutions and highways need revenue, but if we have a realistic approach we will realize that in the past year when any of those departments wanted revenue there was always a way found for it to be forthcoming, whether it be a highway tax, gasoline tax, cigarette tax, there has always been found a way. And that's why I particularly state, as the previous speaker did, that a veterans bonus should be spelled out.

It has been estimated by me and some of my colleagues that it would take \$150,000,000 to give the veterans of New Jersey, which total 750,000, a veterans bonus which is long overdue. There has also been explored by many people additional race track days, night racing, more tracks, but if you were to look at the revenue derived from the four tracks in the State of New Jersey you would see that the total amount of the four tracks for practically 200 days only amounts to a little better than \$23 million per year, which would be one-sixteenth of what would actually be needed to have sufficient money for a veterans bonus.

In my particular bill I deliberately did not specify how to run the lottery or what to charge, what the prizes should be or how much the veterans were to receive, because I feel that if the referendum were finally achieved then all the proper organizations should sit down together and spell

out what they think is the best way to spend the money. And I might add that the property owner and taxpayer is more than burdened with their share of taxes. And any other approach, whether it be race track or bond issues, I am certain would meet with defeat.

Our Colonial ancestors, if Mr. Musto will not mind me reading a portion of his statement, in all the thirteen colonies established and operated for many purposes schools, colleges, churches, bridges, docks, canals, turnpikes, poor relief, and government buildings, and this practice of lottery was continued by various stages of legislators until almost the end of the 19th century.

And today we are familiar with the Irish Sweepstake and the football pools in Great Britain and Ireland and also the Puerto Rican Government Lottery which nets so many dollars per week. We also know that illegal gambling is a multi-million dollar business in the United States, taking much and giving little to the participants. Yet it illustrates the basic desire of a large segment of the population to risk a small amount to gain a sizeable one. Surveys have shown a majority of people to be in favor of limited gambling and it is estimated that over a half million of the nation's adults have broken laws against gambling and have made tremendous profits for an unsavory element of the population.

In almost every instance the establishment of legal government sponsored lotteries has provided an outlet for the gambling urge and protected betters against being cheated. It has guaranteed the honesty of the operation and merely

transferred the profits from the hoodlum element to the public benefit.

Now, I certainly am cognizant of the need of education, institutions, highways, and the many other departments in this State, but I feel a veterans bonus is long overdue. And I also feel, through exploring some of our sister states that they too are exploring the possibility of lotteries whereby they can raise additional revenues. And I feel that if New Jersey is not the first, it's only going to be a matter of time until they are going to have to follow our sister states in obtaining additional sources of revenue.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Anyone wish to ask any questions? Thank you very much, Assemblyman Werner. I want to thank you personally on behalf of the Committee for finding the necessary time to appear before the Committee and express your opinion.

At this time I want to call on Mr. Steve Kirby, Chairman of the Veterans Bonus and Legislative Committee of New Jersey.

STEVE KIRBY: My name is Steve Kirby and I am Past Junior Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans of Camden, New Jersey. Today I am here representing the Veterans Bonus and Legislative Committee of New Jersey.

Since 1946 we have diligently worked for the payment of a veterans bonus for World War II and Korean Veterans. After many, many meetings, parades, rallies and other activities, we have also through the medium of the Courier Post of New Jersey publicized this veterans bonus effort.

It is my opinion that the bonus can be paid without additional taxation to the taxpayers and that is by supporting

this lottery bill, Resolution No. 1. I am in favor of the Werner Bill.

Let me add, with due respect to the clergy or others opposing this bill, I say let them do so at the polls, by the voters, this is fair to all. We are all aware of the off-track betting endorsed by the Mayor of New York City which would take care of illegal gambling that's going on.

We veterans have many members of our Committee who have again and again submitted petitions by the thousands supporting the bonus by lottery. We send millions of dollars overseas and this money is gambled without people knowing it and it goes down the drain. All we know by now is how many times we have lost in this gamble.

I believe that the veterans bonus can be paid by lottery and it is very difficult to apply any taxation, it would seem here, and people all over the country are opposed to taxation of any kind, especially a veterans bonus. We proved that at the polls some years ago when it was on the ballot.

I thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Do any members have any questions? Thank you very much, Mr. Kirby.

At this time I would like to call on Mr. Cresenzi W. Castaldo, State Department Judge Advocate, Catholic War Veterans.

CRESENZI W. CASTALDO: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I represent the Catholic War Veterans, State Department of New Jersey. I am here in a representative

capacity. We feel that we do not want any new tax burdens created on the citizenry of New Jersey. We were unaware this morning of the discussion of ACR No. 7. However, the fact that it does contain some reasonable facsimile of a veterans bonus, we felt that we should make our position known.

We are in favor of a State bonus for all New Jersey veterans. Of course, we have been mandated on several occasions at our State Constitution Convention asking for a State bonus. We want also to make you feel aware of the fact that in this era of ours people forget very, very easily. People have short memories. There is a song, incidentally, written by either Kern or Rodgers & Hammerstein, which goes: "It's Easy To Remember But So Hard To Forget." But if we just twisted these words around and say: "It's easy to forget and so hard to remember," you'll know the plight of the veteran today in the State of New Jersey.

Just to bring you back to 1945, turn back the pages of time a bit and we will find that on the night of July 29-30, 1945, in the South Pacific there was one of the greatest tragedies that happened in the United States Navy. We find that there was a cruiser sunk by a Jap torpedo. We find also that out of the complement of 1196 Sailors, Soldiers and Marines on board, only 316 survived. This ordeal for these men took four days in the water. Normally the South Pacific is supposed to be a calm body of water but we find on this particular night and the subsequent nights thereafter that it wasn't a calm body of water but it was a place where havoc was created, where Soldiers, Sailors and Marines went through

terrifying nights, being in shark infested waters. Just permit me to read a passage from this particular book as to a saying among the men who were in this body of water off the Japanese Coast: "The barracuda has teeth like a razor and swims eighty miles an hour," one man said, "and if he slashes you going by, he can cut your legs right off." "Yeah" another one answers, "What about the poisonous fish? One touch and you're dead," another man said.

Now, I bring these points out to you, Mr. Chairman and members of this august body, for the simple reason that I made a statement before that people are prone to forget the things that happened several years past and we feel it's about time that the people of the State of New Jersey - and we feel it's the responsibility of the Assembly and the Senate to make sure that the New Jersey Veterans get their bonus.

Now, I agree wholeheartedly with Assemblyman Werner when he says this bonus is long overdue. And I think it's about time that we sit down and work out this problem among the veterans organizations and the Assembly.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Mr. Castaldo, your remarks were directed toward the veterans bonus, exclusively.

MR. CASTALDO: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: May I ask you whether or not your organization would favor funds for the other items that are included in ACR No. 7, such as education, institutions and agencies, and highways? I was wondering what position your

organization took in that respect.

MR. CASTALDO: Those are worthy causes, Mr. Chairman. However, our position right now is that we are primarily interested in a veterans bonus. Now, inasmuch as ACR No. 7 is something which we have not discussed, we wish to be marked present on this issue today. However, we have discussed the fact that we want a veterans bonus, whether it comes by ACR No. 7 or A-115, ACR-1 or A-116, of course, is something that we have to discuss in more minute detail. However, we want to be marked present on this particular issue because, as I said before, we were unaware that only ACR-7 was to be discussed at this particular hearing. We were under the impression that there were several other bills to be spoken about which would give us the veterans bonus.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Does any other member of the Committee wish to ask a question?

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Mr. Castaldo, I would appreciate your taking up with your organization whether or not your organization would favor the State lottery particularly and only for the purpose of a veterans bonus or whether it would favor a state lottery to include State aid to education, institutions and agencies, highways, and a bonus.

MR. CASTALDO: May I speak just for myself, Mr. Assemblyman? I feel this way that it is about time that the veterans receive a bonus from the State of New Jersey. I think the other issues that you have presented in your bill, ACR - 7 - mind you this is my own personal opinion, it has nothing to do with the Catholic War Veterans Organization, I

am speaking freely now as an individual - I think what we should consider first of all is the fact that we owe a debt to the veterans. Most businesses are run on an economic fashion. When a firm or company owes a debt they want to pay it off. The sooner they pay it off, the sooner their credit is established. In that way I say this, that it's about time that the New Jersey State Legislature brings about a bill wherein there will be no taxes imposed upon the citizens to pay off a debt that they owe to the New Jersey Veterans.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Thank you.

At this time I would like to call on Mr. John W. Biel representing the Disabled American Veterans.

JOHN W. BIEL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee: I represent the Disabled American Veterans Department of New Jersey. We are for a bonus. However, we did not take any action on any lottery measures. We did consider the bonus angle at our past four conventions, paying it by extending the race track bills.

I merely want to say that so far as we are concerned as to ACR No. 7 or ACR No. 1, we have taken no action in several years and I certainly wouldn't want to commit our organization to any proposition with exception of A-115 and A-116, and with the extension of additional days we're advised that that would raise sufficient money to pay a bonus to World War II and Korean Veterans. Since we did not discuss the resolutions, I certainly would not want to talk about them and take up the valuable time of the Committee.

We are for a bonus, we feel it should be paid, we

supported it, and our unit is for it. And since we are made up of the men who have been wounded, injured and disabled in all wars, we feel that we are rightly entitled to a bonus and that a bonus be paid to the World War II and Korean veterans or the widows of those who died.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Do you have any questions you would like to ask?

I would now like to call Mr. George Ewing representing the Veterans Bonus Commission of Camden County.

GEORGE EWING: My name is George Ewing, Chairman of the Veterans Bonus Committee of South Jersey.

We are here today representing possibly 45,000 veterans of three counties of South Jersey. We are wholeheartedly in favor of a veterans bonus, particularly ACR No. 1.

We are in favor of ACR No. 7 with a few explanations. We are purely out for a bonus for the veterans of the State of New Jersey.

I feel that I should go into some detail. Up to date 27 states in the United States have paid their veterans a bonus. Every state touching the borderlines of New Jersey has paid a bonus. We have an organization of a standard membership of Camden County of 7,000 veterans. We floated petitions and received 21,000 signatures in favor of a statewide sweepstake lottery. We took it upon ourselves to tour the biggest part of this State and we have received petitions from almost every county in the State favoring a sweepstake lottery.

About a year and a half ago we went into Essex County

and we went particularly to Newark, at Broad and Market, and 25 of us veterans from Camden County set up tables, banners, and what-have-you. In less than three hours we accumulated 7,000 signatures on the public highway in Newark, New Jersey.

It is our purpose to collect a bonus with no burden upon anyone other than the people who can afford it. All we are asking the Assembly, and have been asking for three years, is to exercise a little bit of democracy, which we fought so hard to maintain.

Since 1945 we have been denied that. We could not move our bills, we could not get it before the public, and we could not bring it out for a referendum.

I want to bring to your attention that I have two tickets before me now, known as the Irish Sweepstake. Millions and millions of dollars go out of this country every day, and the shop in which I work in Camden, New Jersey has sold \$5,000 worth of sweepstake tickets. And the peculiar thing about these laws that we talk about, it is permissible by the United States Government to gamble. All that is necessary is to take out a \$50 license.

Now, we have been told in the past that if we in New Jersey would permit race tracks that the State of New Jersey would practically go to pot. I would love to see someone stand upon the floor here today and argue to do away with the \$23 million that we collect from the race tracks. I have failed to see anyone starve to death; I've failed to see anyone lose their job; and I've failed to see any racketeering whatsoever taking place in the four race

tracks that we have in New Jersey.

I say to the opposition, it is time that we face facts. We are living in a fast moving world and if we stand still we are going to be left behind. The only possible way to raise revenue for the State of New Jersey - and by the way, let's be the first State in the Union to be alive, as we were in bongo and legalized games of chance. It has been said to me, "Let's wait and see if some other state does it." Don't let New Jersey wait for a thing, let's forge ahead. I believe the people in New Jersey love their veterans just as well as any other state in the Union. So let's prove that.

ACR No. 1 does not spell out the mechanics of the so-called lottery and I'm not in a position to explain the sweepstake lottery for you. I don't know the mechanics of that. I can tell you that there are 800 prizes given out every year. I can tell you that all of the money taken from the lottery is received by the hospitals in Ireland.

I also want to inform you, and you who have had the pleasure of visiting Ireland know this, you will find your steamship ticket agents selling sweepstake lotteries. They tell you to get there what you can't get home. At the airport they have 15 booths that sell sweepstake lotteries.

Let's face facts and figures.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, our bill known as ACR 1, introduced by Assemblyman Werner from Camden, does not spell out the mechanics and what we have in mind for this bill. We are asking for a thousand dollars. Oh, yes, I know that sounds like a lot of money. Stop and think. The State of

Delaware, smaller than the State of New Jersey, paid \$1,000 to their veterans, tops. Rhode Island paid \$875. Imagine New Jersey, the seventh largest and the seventh richest state in the Union has not paid a penny.

Let's look at some of the problems that the veteran has today. There are 213,000 people that we have a record of unemployed in the State of New Jersey. Ninety percent of that unemployment is veterans. Why do I say that? You are all familiar with our unions. Our unions believe in seniority. We have no objections to that. But while the veterans was away fighting and using his time to protect the State of New Jersey, the man who was home was accumulating seniority. So when it comes to the layoff in the plant and the factory, the veteran is the first man out because he has not accumulated any seniority.

So I say to you today that I would like to go into a few of the mechanics that we have worked out over a period of three years.

I said that we asked for a thousand dollars. That is the limit. When I say that I am speaking of a dollar a day for overseas duty, fifty cents a day for state-side duty.

We propose that our sweepstake tickets would be sold at race tracks, nowhere else but at race tracks.

I have a sweepstake ticket here today. It may be a counterfeit. The United States is loaded with sweepstake counterfeit tickets. We want to eliminate that from the beginning.

Now, there has been talk about additional race days.

That all sounds good in language. But are we going too far with the golden goose who is laying that egg? Are we going to go to the limit where other states will be taking our race track business? We cannot go too far with an extension of the race days.

Now, this bill of ours asks no one for a thing, not a single thing, other than the person who can spend \$3.00 for a sweepstake ticket.

Now, what does it amount to? If you look at your race track attendance you will find for one year practically seven million people attend the race tracks in the State of New Jersey. A ticket at \$3.00 apiece would net \$21 million a year.

Let's face facts. Let's wake up in New Jersey. Let's do things here.

We propose to set up a sweepstake lottery commission similar to the Legalized Games of Chance and Bingo, or use the same Commission. The lottery would be run three times a year, once at each race track. We did propose that if the tickets were sold at the race tracks there would be one big sweepstakes day at each track in the State of New Jersey. That would be an additional day given to the tracks and the management to reimburse them for the handling of our tickets.

I might add that I live within four blocks of the Garden State Race Track and I can tell you now that 90% of the sweepstake lottery tickets would be sold to out-of-State people; people who gamble; people to whom that is their sport. New Jersey is a sporting state. We certainly would

die if we eliminated our sports and our seashores in the State of New Jersey. So I say to you here today, take all of these things into consideration and get up to the times and live with this fast moving world and pay a bonus to the veterans of the State of New Jersey by way of a sweepstake lottery.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Does any member of the Committee have a question?

Thank you very much.

I just want to make it clear to those present, in my opening remarks I stated that neither Assemblyman Musto nor any member of this Committee would consider the legalization of gambling in New Jersey.

At this time I would like to call on Edward Simandl, Chairman of the Essex County Veterans Ticket Committee.

EDWARD SIMANDL: May I explain, Mr. Chairman and Assemblymen, the Essex County Veterans Ticket Committee was organized approximately eight years ago for the sole purpose of putting veterans in politics. The Veterans Organization itself cannot play politics, according to its constitution. What I mean by that is to take part in an election.

We do this and we have been very successful. We helped send you down here a Democrat of the Senate. We backed the Republicans several times and while we did back them they did win. And then we backed the Democrats who had stated in the last two years that they were in favor of a veterans bonus by referendum. Your Governor has stated

at political conventions - I mean at Veterans Conventions, veterans meetings that he was in favor, as a veteran, of a veterans referendum and also he wanted us, as veterans, to show him how we were to raise money without taxation to the people of New Jersey - further taxation to the people of New Jersey.

Well, we have been working on this for quite a while. And the last time that we went out and fought for a veterans bonus we were placed on the ballot in such a position that we couldn't win. Like in a county of yours, Assemblyman Musto, where we figured on 40,000 majority we received 3300. We carried 19 counties, we lost two and lost the election one-half of one percent.

I was really campaign manager for that. I don't take any credit for it, for the defeat, or if we won I wouldn't take any credit for that. But we did run a wonderful campaign.

Now you put this in ACR No. 7, Assemblyman Musto's bill. Well, I want to tell you gentlemen that I would say our name, the veterans, has been injected in this bill to make it more powerful. We're down here for no other reason than to see that a veterans bonus is put before the public for them to decide whether we should get it. That's not asking too much.

I believe that if we're a part of a lottery - now I'm talking of Essex County - we would get the worst licking that we have ever gotten in our lives, and everything connected with it would go down. And don't test me on that.

I'm telling you the truth.

Our member from Camden County who said he sat up at Broad and Market Street and received 7,000 or 6,000 signatures, that's all very well. There are 172,000 registered voters, and they can speak and they will. And in the county there are 274,000, close to 300,000.

We have submitted what we feel is a way and means for raising money to pay the bonus and have some left over for health and education, or what-have-you. But to me health and education is way up on the agenda.

Now, may I read to you - we're chartered under the New Jersey Veterans Ticket Committee but I've come down here under the Essex County Veterans Ticket Committee because I'm Chairman and I am speaking for Essex County so I can speak for the whole group from the State. And as I said, in our group are Commanders, State Commanders, men who are still active in the organization, always been active in veterans activities, elective office - like my boy there, and we helped him and we're proud of it, and we are for a bonus.

Mr. Chairman, if this bill goes on and we're a part of it, we are going to be set back ten to fifteen more years because we'll go down with the bill, because of the word "lottery." Yes, lottery can be used in a national way. I believe there should be a national lottery, as the gentleman before said, Mr. Ewing.

There are four big races just about leveled off, three months apart, the Kentucky Derby, the Santa Anita

Stakes, the big one down in Miami, and the Belmont Stakes, the Preakness in Baltimore. They are just about three months apart. And let his soul rest in peace, if he had just lived and God was good, we would have had a national lottery - I'm talking of the Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt. And that was his idea. And that would have helped us a great deal. There's no question about that.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: I think we ought to confine our remarks to either one of the bills. I don't think we should get into any political discussion.

MR. SIMANDL: All right. I'm sorry. The State of New Jersey should pay a bonus to all persons who served in the Armed Forces of the United States for a period of six months or more in either World War II or the Korean War in the sum of \$500. For those who served less than six months the bonus should be in a sum equivalent to \$1.00 for each day served. That could be \$1.50, if you wish.

The definition of a veteran of World War II or a veteran of the Korean War should be in accordance with the classification established by the War Department.

The means of raising money. It is suggested that the funds necessary to pay this bonus can be raised over a period of ten years by either of the following plans - we submit two: Enacting legislation which will permit off-track betting on horse racing held at the New Jersey tracks.

Now, Mayor Wagner just bit off a little bit more than he could chew. Instead of keeping in his own state, and I believe that he's still going to get it and then if he gets

it, we have to get it. So let's be first. There's nothing wrong in off-track betting.

Now our second plan: The enactment of legislation that will permit night racing in New Jersey and the granting by the Racing Commission of two additional licenses for trotting tracks, the State receipts from which should be used for this purpose.

It is also suggested that after the bonus has been paid the money which would continue to come into the State Treasury should be used for health and education.

The above plans were submitted after conferences with the Governor, in which he desired to submit what I told you before.

Now, I think we are living up to his request. And, after all, we certainly should not embarrass him. And I believe that anyone, whether Republican or Democrat, - I know for a fact, appearing before the Republican Committee on making up their platform they definitely are against a lottery. That was the first question that Senator Jones pushed at me. He said, "Simandl, I don't hold that you have in your mind to raise the funds by lottery." I said, "Every time we tell you, Senator, the way we're going to raise our funds, the next day I read in the paper that you people have taken that way and means of raising the money and using it for some other purpose."

Now, we are submitting our plan and we hope that you hold this in abeyance.

I want to thank you gentlemen for allowing us to

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I want to thank you gentlemen for allowing us to

appear here.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Does the Committee have any questions to ask Mr. Simandl?

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Just one question. Senator Jones didn't say he was for off-track betting, did he?

MR. SIMANDL: I want to tell you, out of the whole Committee he was really the only one that I would say was acceptable, outside of a lottery. And that is no kidding. And there was Beadleston on that --

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Beadleston?

MR. SIMANDL: Beadleston. Oh, I went and hit him very hard. He was campaign manager for our friend Mr. Kean.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: I'm sorry, Mr. Simandl, I'll have to hear from Mr. Jones and Mr. Beadleston.

MR. SIMANDL: He was against it, I said. Oh, Beadleston was against it.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: Against what?

MR. SIMANDL: Against the bonus altogether.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUSTO: He was against a lottery and off-track betting, too, wasn't he?

MR. SIMANDL: He stated that the veterans themselves are not for it. Now I want to tell you, I have a letter in my pocket that I'll show you that the Republican Party sent to me, - I have it in my pocket. I'll read it.- that we received from the now Chairman, Mr. Erdman, that at this time he's against a bonus and he added some things that wouldn't read very nice. And that was after a letter had been received from us to Erdman, and that letter is in my pocket.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Any further questions? Thank you very much.

At this time I would like to call on Sergeant Ray Smith representing the VFW, DAV. AND MOPH.

SGT. RAY SMITH: You forgot to add the greatest title that I take a lot of pride in. I'm the former heavyweight champion of the American Expeditionary Forces of World War No I.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Sergeant, I was going to wait until you got through speaking and then remind the audience.

SGT. SMITH: Gentlemen, this is a great pleasure to be here and talk to such a distinguished group as we have here now. Unfortunately, we lost two customers up in the gallery but I hope the other two guys left up there can hear me. Can you hear me all right? All right, fine. We'll go to bat.

I come here not as a definite representative of any group but I have the distinguished privilege of being the Commander of the Veterans Voting League of Camden County, of South Jersey, rather. I have been four times Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, three times Commander of the Disabled Veterans, and one time Commander of the Military Order of Purple Hearts.

Throughout my days in Camden I've talked to thousands and thousands of veterans and everyone of them wants a bonus. I feel it would be a big pickup for these lads who so valiently fought our fight in World War No. II and in the Korean War.

I want to say that I'm very happy -- apparently, Frank, you didn't let the people know that I was going to be here

today because this is the lousiest gate I ever drew in my entire history. I don't think there's more than 15 or 20 people here and it doesn't pay any more than \$175 at the most. The last time I worked with a \$12,000 gate in Portland, Oregon. I really mean that. This is awful, to think of the apathetic regard of the people of New Jersey for a thing so vastly important as the question affecting all the veterans in this entire State. And I think one of my learned brothers over there - who I think is a politician along with being a veteran - how many did you say there were in New Jersey?

MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Votes?

SGT. SMITH: No, veterans.

MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: A half million.

SGT. SMITH: A half million veterans. And let me tell you something, all you Assemblymen who come up for election next year, remember that, a million or a half million veterans.

I want to say this to you, if a lottery would keep me out of the portals of heaven, I definitely would be against it irrespective of what purpose the money was to be used for. But I'm definitely sure that the Man upstairs is not going to put me aside because I came up here and asked you gentlemen to go along with the bills proposed by my friend Frank Werner and Assemblyman Musto, No. 1 and No. 7. They are both good bills. After all, I make it a point to keep in contact with the Man upstairs and I feel as though he guides me in everything that I do. I feel that a lottery will give a chance to a lot of us to give up that gambling urge. We would not have to sneak in a back room to play a

number or play a horse, we would be able to gamble in the open and it would be legitimate and that would be something that would be good for the morals of the people of New Jersey. There is no question about football pools, basketball pools, baseball pools. They are all being run but I don't hear any particular beef about those things. I don't see any concentrated effort. When a great guy like a fellow by the name of Gibbins who runs the Police Department in the City of Philadelphia of several millions of people, comes out openly in a magazine and says that the gambling situation has gotten so far away from the police that it has become necessary for them to do something about it and pass some kind of law so that they legalize to a degree some kind of gambling.

And I feel that the time has come when you gentlemen in New Jersey can grab time by the forelock and possibly put over a lottery bill that will mean so much to the youngsters today who under the VA loans and all that sort of thing have been losing out on their houses. And I tell you gentlemen, I know, because I talk to many of them each day, what a great uplift it would be if these boys of World War II and the Korean War would get a bonus. It would give them a lift that would be inspiring not only to them but aiding their families and also helping the State because after all that money would go back into circulation.

I remember in -- I forget the year, but I was one of the first to lead the bonus army in Washington for a bonus for World War 1 veterans, and I spoke to Mr. Hoover at that time.

I'm not interested because of myself. But I feel that we veterans of World War I got a bonus, why do we discriminate? Why don't we give the bonus to World War II and Korean veterans? They live in New Jersey just as I did in World War I. They went over there and enjoyed it -- not enjoy it, perhaps that's the wrong word, but they went through the same things that I did. And a fellow said to me one time, "What is going over the trenches?" And a guy said, "Don't you know what going over the trenches is?" I said, "No, what is it." He said, "Just like sticking your head out of a hole and saying 'Good Morning, Jesus.'" And that's exactly what it was, it was hell, there's no question about that. Sherman made no mistake in what he said about war.

Now, I'll tell you one thing I'm interested in. This thing is not going to interfere with juvenile delinquency, it's not going to affect it in any way. We have police wars, we have police departments, and everything is being done to curb juvenile delinquency. Surely a lottery is not going to aid juvenile delinquency but it's not going to aggravate it. I can assure you that.

You know it's very difficult for me because I'm not a professional speaker like all you other guys up here, and I have to go on these notes and half the time I can't read the doggone things.

I know, gentlemen, this is not a moral issue. I want to talk to all you Assemblymen. All you other guys turn your heads. All you Assemblymen here realize that this is not a moral issue, this is an issue that's right, something that's

due these boys that fought so valiently for you and I in World War II and the Korean War. And what are we going to do? Are you going to permit a few church members to come up here and tell you that you shouldn't do it because Massachusetts didn't go for it, and some other state doesn't go for it?

We want the bonus and we expect every Assemblyman to vote for it and support these bills. Now, after all, gentlemen, when the time comes and its ripe and the veteran comes along, you can find out that everyone of us veterans - and I'm talking for many of the veterans in South Jersey - I'm not familiar with the rest of the State but I can assure you that the veterans will go with the guys who were for them and I feel sure that you'll have nothing to worry about. The fact remains, gentlemen, that it's a long overdue debt, the veterans of World War II and Korea have done a great job. They made it possible for you guys to be Assemblymen. Suppose they came over here and took over America, you wouldn't be Assemblymen, we wouldn't have the right to have public hearings, we wouldn't be able to have these meetings and gatherings. This is a great thing. This is a great land. And we want to keep it great. The only way we can make it great is to pay the debt that you gentlemen owe the great guys that fought for you and me in World War II and the Korean War.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Are there any questions?

Thank you very much, Sergeant Smith.

I would like to call on C. Harold Saidt, Director of

Public Relations of the American Legion.

C. HAROLD SAIDT: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am representing the American Legion Department of New Jersey.

We are here today because of our particular interest in a bonus for World War II and Korean veterans. We are mandated by convention action, as late as September, 1958, in favor of a bonus for these veterans. However, in every one of our resolutions that have been adopted, some four or five in the last four or five years, in favor of a bonus, there has been written into the resolution that the American Legion would not at any time recommend or suggest to the Legislature how the money should be raised. That has been incorporated in the resolutions.

We definitely think that the people ought to have another opportunity to vote on this question of a bonus. As citizen-taxpayers our nearly 75,000 members of the Legion are definitely interested, of course, in State aid to education, institutions, our highways, etc., but in view of the circumstances as I have explained them, and our mandated resolutions, we cannot say that we are for or against ACR 7. However, I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the American Legion to Assemblyman Musto, Assemblyman Werner, Assemblyman Hauser, and the other members of the Legislature who for the past several years have indicated their own personal interest in the matter of this bonus. We appreciate the opportunity to make these few remarks.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Does anyone have any questions?  
Thank you very much, Mr. Saidt.

Is there anyone else in the audience who cares to testify?

ANGELO R. LETTIERI: Yes, I would like to be heard.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Will you come forward, please.

MR. LETTIERI: My name is Angelo R. Lettieri. I am a taxpayer in Roselle Park, Union County, and I specifically came here because I read that there was a hearing on a State lottery. That's the thing that stood out in my mind, and public hearing.

Back in Roselle Park, when Mayor Dreyfuss was our Mayor, I got up at a Council meeting one time and asked why we didn't push for a lottery in Roselle Park and he said to me, "You better go down to Trenton." Well, here I am. I'm in Trenton. It took me a long time but I got here.

I'm in favor of a State lottery. I have no issue with veterans or any other organizations, just that I like a state lottery. I'm getting to the point where in 1940, when I first became a taxpayer my taxes were \$144. Now in 1958 on that same property I pay \$355. I'm not beefing but it is steadily climbing. I make more money but I pay more taxes. So I definitely am for a state lottery.

I just made a few mental notes when Assemblyman Werner got up here - he doesn't know me but I know him because we both work for Prudential, we are both instrumental in union activities, and the thought occurred to me that when we were both debit agents that people gambled legally.

We are called - of course, Werner won't like this - nickel and dime insurance men. But we would go into a home every day and people would pay us these nickels and dimes. They were gambling. They were gambling on insurance, and it was legal. And I know for a fact that as a young fellow growing up in Roselle Park I could place two cents on a number and I knew where I could play a horse. I like to do it, like the gentleman said, openly and honestly.

Right now I can go to the race track with no problem. All I have to do is pay my \$2.00 and get in.

So at this time I would like to say -- I had a lot of stuff here but it doesn't need repeating, it's to do with people winning money, people being caught. I had a case in Rahway where I collected, the Chief of Police was brought up on a \$50 charge. He spends all his life as a policeman and he gets knocked down for taking a \$50 bribe.

So I would like to go on record as being in favor of a state lottery.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Any members of the Committee wish to ask any questions?

Thank you very much.

Now, is there anyone else who hasn't spoken who wishes to speak? Will you come forward, please.

LARRY JONES: My name is Larry Jones, President of the Union City Rent Payers & Tenants Association, representing at this hearing also the Bayonne Tenant Organization and the Jersey City Tenant League.

We speak in wholehearted support of the lottery bill,

primarily for the following reasons:

1. It will go out to the electorate for a good and honest exposure for the benefits contained therein because in the course of years that it has been projected the public has never been completely acquainted with what it will do.

2. It will offset some of the unpleasantness that has been created by Assembly Bill 9, wherein the State sets up a competitive and compulsory formula for school teachers, known as increments, and then goes on to push it down to the lower levels of the district for payment by the local residents who eventually become the one family home owner and the tenants.

You gentlemen will appreciate that school aid by legislation without implementation compels the local level to contribute the additional amount of moneys which were contemplated in the legislation but there was no allowance made in the State budget to be able to relieve this load which is bad enough at the local levels at the present time.

3. We have heard about veterans bonus. The speaker is a non-vet, having no personal interest in the particular issue. However, exploration over a period of years in our county, and our particular groups represent several thousand families who have been in the Armed Forces, -- we know that the other states of the Union, not all of them but a good majority, have made some allowances and considerations for the servicemen. We also know that in the State of New Jersey propaganda defeated the proposition of a veterans bonus by attempting to pit one group of servicemen against the other on the basis that one would have to be the taxpayer for those who

were unfortunate enough to be able to pay taxes on a straight basis.

These three particular issues, we feel, should be exposed to the public on a referendum and we are sincere in our belief that this exposure shall not be identified as a crap game, a card game, or a horse player trying to bet a half dollar to a deuce or \$2.00, as you might put it in gentlemen's language, with a bookmaker; but it will be a healthy expanding of what is now known as the Raffles and Lottery Act which is just a human modification of the word "gambling" that had to be put in our original State Constitution and carried to that first step of modification. We know the good it has done in the support of many organizations, both educational, spiritual and for juvenile groups.

So, on these bases, we implore you gentlemen to see that this bill is passed and do everything in your power to move it to the Senate and then to the Governor so that the public will have an opportunity to vote to enforce something that has been a voice in the wilderness too long. I am referring to the approach, the attempt and the forcefulness of your Associate, Assemblyman Musto, to bring this to a favorable conclusion.

Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: Does anyone have any questions?

Thank you very much.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of a member of the Committee who came in a little late, Assemblyman Wilson.

Does anyone else wish to talk?

Mr. Kirby, you have your hand up, do you have something else to say?

MR. KIRBY: Well, no. The only thing, I want to ask a question. The purpose of this meeting was for a discussion. Can we carry home a message of enthusiasm to the veterans on the passage of this lottery bill here? Is there a possibility? I know from the attention paid by the Assemblymen, and especially the Assemblymen here, of late years, this bonus bill has had plenty of publicity and has been received very generously, in my opinion, and I hope that the newspapers will go all out editorially for a bonus or against a bonus and for a lottery or against a lottery.

I thank you.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: I am sure the Committee can give you no indication right now what is going to happen. As I said earlier, the Committee will sit down to decide whether or not hearings will be held in other parts of the State. There have been a number of requests from individuals who want to testify but they just couldn't be present today and they are seeking an opportunity at a later date.

Of course, we want to get a true expression of opinion and I think if the Committee sees fit to hold hearings in other sections of the State then and only then will we know whether or not the citizens of the State of New Jersey are prepared to accept the type of legislation that we are discussing today.

MR. EWING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to put a request in that this Committee hold a meeting in Camden, New Jersey, to give the veterans who have to work for a living an opportunity to appear before this Committee and give you their views of a veterans bonus.

CHAIRMAN MELONI: The Committee will take that into consideration, Mr. Ewing, but I think you ought to be reminded of the fact that this bill that we are speaking on today does not only provide money for a veterans bonus but it includes educational facilities, institutions and roads and highways. I am sure that we should consider that and not think that this is just a public hearing on a veterans bonus. It's not. It includes these other items. And I am sure that groups representing the educational system will want to speak, as well as groups representing highways and institutions. As I have said, there have been a number of requests made by people who just couldn't be here today and the Committee is going to decide whether or not there will be further hearings.

We will certainly take your request into consideration.

Does anyone else care to speak?

All right. The Committee wants to thank you for your cooperation and your views will certainly be given the utmost consideration.

Thank you very much.

(Hearing concluded)

THE NEW JERSEY FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ORDER

The following statement was approved at our meeting held in New Brunswick, February 22, 1959. The statement that follows was taken from the Book Of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends of New York Yearly Meeting, and Faith and Practice of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

"Our Society bears a testimony against betting, gambling and lotteries or any other endeavors to receive value without exchanging an equivalent. We hold a firm belief that these practices are wrong in principle, and own an honest return for that which we receive. Indulgence in games of chance for the purpose of winning prizes also blunts this proper sense of obligation. Friends' testimony for honesty and integrity calls them to discourage gambling and lotteries in every form, no matter how widely accepted or for what good causes."

The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting takes in the section of New Jersey from Cape May up to and including Princeton, while New York Yearly Meeting serves all Meetings above Princeton in New Jersey.

