

WHAT THE CASINO TV ADS WON'T TELL YOU?

If you are like me, you have probably seen the television ads ad nauseam that promise to keep the billion dollars in Ohio and create 34,000 new jobs immediately. I assume that they estimate that Ohioans have left a billion dollars in other states' casinos. Since it's a nice round figure it is obviously a guess. But surely everyone didn't lose therefore some money must have made it back across the border. 34,000 new jobs can't possibly start immediately. Perhaps, the 19,000 temporary construction jobs could begin, but the 15,000 casino employees are probably at least a year away. They will be divided among four cities and include a large number of part-time and seasonal workers to avoid paying benefits. For every part-time job, it takes two workers to complete one shift and therefore reduces the number of jobs that can support a family.

You will never see an ad that brags about the fact that the Penn National Gambling Syndicate will have a prominent place in Ohio's Constitution proclaiming themselves as the only corporation permitted to establish casinos in Ohio's. There can be no competition and they have the option in which of the four largest cities they build casinos to conduct gambling 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. Don't be quick to assume that they will want one in every city that they have announced. They have already broken promises to the citizens in Kansas when they walked away from building the casino that they had spent \$25 million to promote last year. Remember, the promoters wrote their own petition and did not include any guarantee of which cities would get a casino. It could have been a well-conceived way of encouraging many citizens of those four large cities to vote for their proposal.

Have you seen one ad that talks about the fact that Penn National wrote its ballot issue to pay a percentage of tax rate well below the level that they pay in their home state of Pennsylvania? Their proposal will pay counties, cities and schools 33% that they estimate will be \$650 million. However, Pennsylvania negotiated for all casinos 55% to the state. Since Penn National is seeking a monopoly with no competitive bidding shouldn't Ohio at least get the same 55%? It would have increased Ohio's revenue for services by \$420 million to over a billion dollars. Why should Ohio voters let Penn National decide what tax rate they should pay? **Vote NO on Issue 3** and ask the legislature to set a fair percentage for future attempts that those seeking to expand gambling must offer.

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush."

(Luke 6 : 43-44 NRSV)

**If you want to have a sign
for your church lot or heavily
travelled highway please
CALL OR EMAIL ME
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

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IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

Date: Oct. 2, 2009

Frequency: Bi-Weekly

Published By:

Ohio Council of Churches (OCC)

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Issue: #19-09

Price: \$10 per year

You are welcome to copy or quote
from the Legislative Brief.

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As if that is not bad enough, Penn set the license fee at \$50 million for a potential total of \$200 million. However, a national expert, Jeffrey Hook, suggested that rate is much too low. He contends that it should be somewhere between \$330 and \$400 million for each casino. That would create a payoff of \$1.3 to \$1.6 million. We will never see an ad talking about that \$2 billion that is leaving Ohio in Penn National's bank account that should have been funding Ohio schools. Again I say just **Vote NO on Issue 3** and ask your legislators to establish a fair license fee not one drafted by a casino owner.

I'll bet that you think that the case can't get any worse for Penn National. You would be wrong. When they wrote their language for the ballot, they did not specify cash as part of the definition for "gross revenues". This is the money that must be divided and pay their taxes of 33%. However, since cash is not included in the definition, they would not be required to figure cash in the payment to counties, cities and schools. Since slot machines make up nearly 70% of most casinos' revenues, this could amount to a large sum of money that would not be paid in taxes. Penn National lied and said that cash is no longer used in slots. However, Truthpac took a hidden camera to Penn National's casino near Cincinnati in Lawrenceburg, Ind. and filmed cash flowing through the slot machines there. They put this film on U-Tube for every voter to see. Not only are they not paying Ohio as much as Pennsylvania, but they have plotted a way to not pay even what they promised after they are already in our Constitution.

Another TV ad that you will never see regarding the language in Issue 3 concerns how they have prohibited charitable gambling by churches and non-profits like Volunteer fire departments

and fraternal organizations. It allows bingo and horse racing, but does not mention Las Vegas nights and Texas hold'em's poker nights at churches that properly apply and meet the state requirements of the Secretary of State. These fundraisers are relatively common in the Catholic Church to help subsidize low and middle income families that want to send their children to a parochial school for a Christian education.

It was very disturbing to me that the FOP acts as chief spokesman for a gambling syndicate that will bring more crime to Ohio communities. Studies have shown at least a 10% increase in crime in communities with casinos. The *Toledo Blade* editorial commented, "Gambling it seems, equals job security for the people pledged to "protect and serve". " Who knew that slogan emblazoned on patrol cars actually mean protecting their own jobs in a self-serving manner?"

If Penn National walked away from building a casino in southeast Kansas after investing \$25 million what guarantee does Ohio have? The plan to build here could be a ruse to get people in the largest cities in Ohio to vote for Issue 3 and once approved choose only to build one or two.

The United Methodist Church leadership is strongly encouraging their congregations to place a Vote NO on ISSUE 3 Sign on their church property. It is important to send a clear message to those who pass by that the faith community believes that government funding depending upon the losses of gamblers is morally wrong. Casinos create 10% higher crime rates, doubling of addiction rates, bankruptcy, domestic violence, white collar crime. I challenge all other denominations and churches to review this issue carefully and consider asking your membership for support to put signs in your church lot. †††