

For Immediate release- Contact Father Gene 847-6153

LEGISLATURE READIES ASSAULT ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN R.I.

A massive assault on the quality of life in R.I. is about to be launched by the General Assembly as it moves to consider legislation to expand gambling at Newport Grand and Lincoln's Twin River. It is up to us to stop it.

While the precise provisions of the gambling package have not been determined, bills have been introduced that range from permitting 24 hour gambling in Newport and Lincoln to allow these slot parlors to morph into full-scale destination casinos like Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut.

Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling (CCACG), the 31-year-old Aquidneck Island-based foe of casino gambling, has secured a pledge from House Speaker William C. Murphy to hold a hearing for all Rhode Islanders on gambling legislation at the Old Colony House on Washington Square in Newport.

This hearing of the House Finance Committee in February, for which no day has yet been set, gives Rhode Islanders a chance to show the General Assembly the extent of our opposition to schemes that would enrich casino owners and might temporarily boost state revenue at the expense of the people who live in our small state.

Whatever expansion scheme is proposed, its success means an increase in traffic congestion, drugs and general crime. It is unavoidable, as the histories of the communities in nearby Connecticut clearly show. To begin coping with this every community in Newport County and Lincoln would have to increase its police forces.

Inevitably accompanying 24-hour gambling would come the 24-hour sale of alcoholic beverages. Think of what this would mean to the patrons of bars that close at 1:00 am when they have an all-night spot to drive to. How many emergency vehicles would we need to deal with the carnage?

Everyone concerned about the quality of life in Little Rhody should be prepared to join in showing the General Assembly by their presence or their testimony our widespread opposition to the expansion of gambling.

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CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT CASINO GAMBLING (CCACG)

The Rev. Eugene J. McKenna, President

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