

From James C. Miller

January 11, 2007

Dearest Friends - of Citizens Concerned about Casino Gambling:

I so much long to share the dinner party with you on February 9, but I am committed to a preaching engagement in Tampa, FL.

In your historical notes, you quite accurately state that CCACG was the first group to oppose casinos in Rhode Island. You have not only been the first, but you have been the most stalwart.

Only a few years after you launched your mission, I arrived to become the Executive Minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches. I distinctly remember the afternoon that Captain Howard Kay pulled me aside at the State House to inform me that something was brewing in the closing hours of the General Assembly that, if passed, would unleash a whole new expansion of gambling. In typical stealth fashion, what Kay foresaw actually came to pass. Howard's persuasive ways drew me into the fray, and I became hooked to joining you and bringing the resources to the ecumenical community to fight the new gambling Proposals.

Not only do I remember and thank Howard Kay and all in your rank, but I recall, too, the amazing genius of Rep. Jeff Teitz and Rep. Rod Driver in drafting that key legislation that called for the critical statewide referendums. Their legislative initiatives saved us from total General Assembly domination.

For me personally, it has been a true and rare joy to be associated with you all these years our successive battles. We've had many anguishing times, all resulting eventually in victories. Through the public rallies and legislative hearings in which we mobilized community response, there grew for me a cadre of cherished friendships, the likes of Don Booth and Fr. Gene, and most certainly Howard and Liliana Kay.

I send you all commendations and pray for increased solidarity amongst us as we continue to stand strong and speak convincingly of our convictions.

Most sincerely,

Jim