

In announcing his selection, the White House noted Patel's invention of the carbon dioxide laser, which the White House described as a "major scientific and technological breakthrough which continues to be an important tool in manufacturing, medical treatment, scientific investigations, and materials processing."

Dr. Patel, who holds 35 major scientific patents, came to UCLA after 32 years at AT&T Bell Laboratories. Among his many achievements, he has made significant research contributions in the fields of gas lasers, nonlinear optics, molecular spectroscopy, pollution detection, and laser surgery. He maintains active research in the spectroscopy of highly transparent liquids and soils, and surgical, medical, and industrial applications of carbon dioxide and other high power gas lasers.

After beginning his career at AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1961, Dr. Patel became head of the Bell Laboratories Infrared Physics and Electronics Research Department in 1967 and director of the Electronics Research Laboratory in 1970. He became director of the Physical Research Laboratory in 1976, and executive director of the Research, Physics, and Academic Affairs Division in 1981. In 1987, he became executive director of the Research, Materials Science, Engineering, and Academic Affairs Division. Dr. Patel came to UCLA in 1992 and was touted by the UCLA search committee as "one of the most extraordinary scientists in America."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in congratulating Dr. Patel for his leadership and commitment to the advancement of science. It is only fitting that the House pay tribute to this outstanding National Medal of Science recipient.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 22, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 334.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 334 during consideration of H.R. 3845, a bill making appropriations for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 1997.

NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT AND POLICY COMMISSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate version of H.R. 497, the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission Act. The bill includes several provisions that are less satisfactory than the bill I coauthored with Representative FRANK WOLF that passed the House in March. However, I believe it is imperative that we act now to initiate a comprehensive study of gambling and its impact on our society.

The legislation before us today addresses issues and concerns that I have sought to

bring to the attention of Congress since 1994. As chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I conducted hearings in September 1994, that documented the rapid proliferation of casino gambling throughout the United States and examined the economic impact of Government-sponsored gambling on small businesses, on individual communities, and on the Nation as a whole.

Based on the findings of these hearings, I introduced the National Policies Toward Gambling Review Act in November 1994 to authorize a Federal study of the economic and social implications of this widespread growth of legalized gambling. This proposal, like that subsequently introduced by Mr. WOLF, creates a new national commission, along the lines of the commission that last studied gambling in 1976, and expands its study to all aspects of gambling in all States and localities. While I have reintroduced my bill in the current Congress, H.R. 462, I am also the lead cosponsor of H.R. 497.

The 1994 Small Business Committee hearings convinced me that widespread legalized gambling has raised serious questions that local officials, and American society generally, were not prepared to address. The hearings confirmed what a New York Times article headline had proclaimed several weeks earlier, that "Gambling Is Now Bigger Than Baseball" as a national pastime. Some 125 million people visited casinos in 1994, a whopping 36-percent increase from 92 million in 1993. Average annual attendance to professional baseball games barely reached 70 million. Casino revenues increase by a whopping 33 percent between 1993 and 1994, from \$30 billion to \$40 billion, more than the combined revenues for other major leisure activities, including movies, books, recorded music, spectator sports, theme parks, and arcades.

Americans wagered \$462 billion on all forms of legalized gambling in 1994, more than the entire gross national product of Communist China. More than \$360 billion was wagered in casinos in 10 States and on Indian reservations in 24 States, most of which were built since 1991. All but three States now permit parimutuel betting, slot machines, video poker, keno, bingo, or other forms of gambling. And 36 States actively encourage gambling with government-run lotteries.

This is a far different situation than when the national commission issued its report on gambling in 1976. Legalized gambling was then confined to Nevada and under consideration for Atlantic City. The focus of the commission's study was the influence of organized crime in gambling, not the various economic and social implications of widespread gambling throughout the country.

As gambling has spread across the United States, and even to locations on our border with Canada, it has become clear that the promised benefits of gambling as an approach for local economic development have proven to be illusory. States and localities now compete with Indian reservations and with other States to lure potential gamblers, or only to keep their gambling revenues at home. Casinos that were touted as bringing jobs and economic enrichment to communities in 1994 are now going bankrupt.

The social costs of gambling also are becoming more visible as gambling spreads to more locations. Unfortunately, we have no estimates, for example, of the costs of gambling-

related crimes, bankruptcies, or lost jobs and work time. Nor do we know the costs inflicted on families in terms of gambling-related alcoholism, divorce, or suicide.

As State and Federal funding for social services and other programs continue to decline, local officials will come under even greater pressure to heed promises of new revenue and greater prosperity in legalized gambling. It is imperative that these officials, and the public generally, have all the information available to make reasoned and prudent policy decisions.

Contrary to the arguments of some in the gambling industry, the bill before us today does not seek to restrict or regulate organized gambling, nor is it intended as a preliminary step toward such regulation. It merely responds to a growing public demand for more and better information about gambling. And it responds to requests by officials in New York and elsewhere for a broad analysis of the impact of gambling that can incorporate information from all States and from Indian tribal jurisdictions.

I believe the bill before us today can provide the information the public needs to make more informed decisions about gambling. It is clearly not perfect. The subpoena authority in the Senate version applies only to documents, not individuals. And the wording of that authority is, at best, ambiguous. I am troubled also by the restrictions the bill would impose on the use of information generated by the commission, particularly the release of financial information to the public.

However, the need for more comprehensive information and analysis of gambling is urgent in my State of New York and in other States. The commission bill before us, while not perfect, will provide significantly more information about the economic and social implications of gambling than is available today.

Nearly 2 years have passed since I first proposed legislation to create a national commission to study gambling. It was needed then, it is imperative now. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSEPH O'BRIEN

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph P. O'Brien for cycling 3,800 miles to support the National Scoliosis Foundation research to find a cure for scoliosis. I would also like to congratulate the foundation itself for its 20 years of service to the scoliosis community.

Over the years this foundation has earned recognition and enormous respect for its dedication to educate and support the scoliosis community and its ongoing research to find a cure. Joe is both the president and CEO of the National Scoliosis Foundation. Through a football injury in high school, 1966, it was discovered that Joe had scoliosis. However at the age of 16 his condition had progressed so that it was necessary that he undergo two spinal surgeries. He spent 12 months of his life in a hospital, 11 of which were in a body cast. This ailment had a profound effect on Joe