

has attained honor and recognition from several leading organizations, including the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World—the oldest and largest Pentecostal organization on Earth. After 39 years as a working member of the organization, Suffragan Bishop Taylor will be elevated to the position of Bishop this August, joining the ranks of those who execute ecclesiastical decisions that affect the religious community.

A gala celebration of his elevation will be held August 17 at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego. I join all of those who have been touched by Suffragan Bishop Taylor's work in congratulating him on this honor and encouraging him to continue his good work.

NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT
AND POLICY COMMISSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 497, the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission Act; legislation introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia, [Mr. WOLF]. I have cosponsored and support this bill because gambling is not the type of business my district needs or wants in order to build a strong economy and a stable tax base. Virginia has been extremely successful in attracting high tech and Fortune 500 companies that provide quality, high paying jobs. Furthermore, preliminary studies of areas that have introduced gambling show that while the number of jobs increase at first, over time the economy of the area suffers, resulting in the loss of high quality employers. We don't need this in my district and I suspect that many Members of this body have similar feelings.

Already, my State is seeing the proliferation of gambling activities. One off-track horse betting parlor is already in operation in Virginia, and its owners are anxious to open a second. The bipartisan, unbiased nine-member commission this legislation will create will provide Congress and the President with the information necessary to make decisions regarding national policy on gambling. This study will grant the Federal Government invaluable information concerning gambling. Twenty years have passed since Congress visited this issue and the Commission on the Review of the National Policy toward Gambling issued its report. Since then, 46 States have legalized gambling in some fashion. In 1994, Americans wagered \$482 billion on all forms of gambling according to U.S. News and World Report; 85 percent of that figure took place in casinos in 27 States, most of which have opened during the past 5 years. Because of the fact that this industry is growing at such an incredible rate, and because there is a lack of current knowledge on the effects of this particular industry on our society Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important and crucial legislation.