

## Gaming

# Nine of the most common misconceptions

proudly leaving welfare rolls and getting on payrolls. They are taxpayers instead of tax users. Local and state governments are enjoying increased tax revenues. Only where states failed to negotiate compacts in "good faith" in violation of IGRA has the process not worked.

### 6. MYTH: IGRA is an Unconstitutional Infringement Upon States' Rights.

#### FACT: States Have Reneged on the Deal They Proposed and Accepted.

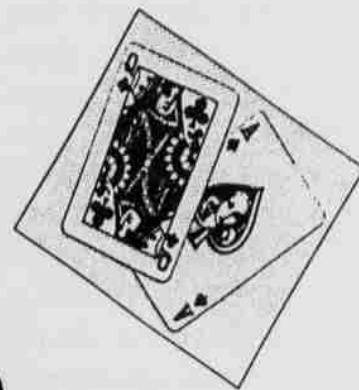
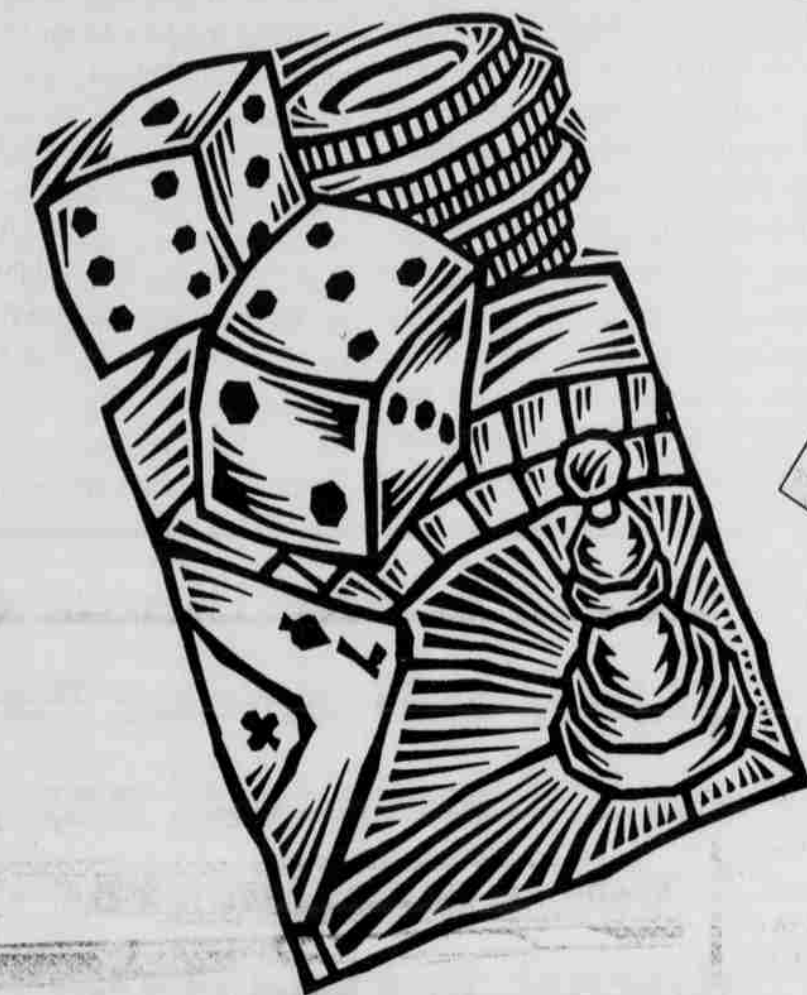
The states' ongoing assault on IGRA starts from the faulty premise that they have some inherent long-standing right to regulate or curtail tribal gaming. States are now trying to renege on a deal they proposed and accepted when Congress passed IGRA in 1988 by unjustly and wrongly asserting that IGRA violates the 10th and 11th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. To the contrary, the Supreme Court's Cabazon decision was a clear recognition of the right of

Indian tribes to regulate gaming on their lands free of state laws if the state permitted those activities outside the reservation. (The state of Oregon continues to act in good faith with the Grand Ronde Tribe.)

### 7. MYTH: Tribal Gaming Drains Resources and Tax Dollars From Surrounding Non-Indian Governments and Communities.

#### FACT: Indian Gaming Creates Additional Resources and Tax Dollars For Surrounding Non-Indian Governments and Communities.

Indian Gaming is now a 5 billion dollar industry according to *Gaming and Wagering Magazine*. Indian gaming creates jobs, increases economic activity and generates tax revenue both on and off the reservation. Consider the following: in San Diego county alone, tribal gaming has been responsible for the creation of more than 5,000 well-paying new jobs, with a payroll of



\$22 million per year (and the associated payroll taxes and employee income taxes). In Minnesota, Indian gaming has become the state's seventh largest employer, having created more than 12,000 new jobs - three-fourths of which are held by non-Indians. And in Connecticut, a single Indian gaming facility will provide more revenues to the state than its largest taxpayer, which is one of the country's largest defense contractors - direct jobs created nationally, with the majority of employees being non-Indian.

Tribes have spent millions of dollars for construction. In addition, they spend many more millions per year for goods and services - almost all locally.

### 8. MYTH: Better Economic Development Alternatives to Gaming are Available to Tribes.

#### FACT: Indian Gaming is the First - And Only - Economic Development Tool That Has Ever Worked on Reservations.

Many reservations are in remote, inconvenient locations on land that nobody else wanted. Before tribal gaming, there had been little successful public or private sector economic development on reservations. The Federal Government/Bureau of Indian Affairs has not been successful in economic development on reservations. The states have not proposed any specific or credible alternatives to Indian gaming as a meaningful source of tribal revenues and jobs. However, tribal governments are using the gaming proceeds to diversify and conduct other economic enterprises.

### 9. MYTH: Tribal Gaming Has Little Public Support

#### Among Non-Indians.

#### FACT: A Majority of Americans Support Indian Gaming.

Public opinion surveys, both nationally and within various states, conclusively demonstrate that the public strongly supports expanded gaming on Indian reservations. A national Harris Poll in October 1992, and polls in Arizona, California, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nebraska and Washington, all show that the general public favors casino-style gambling on Indian lands but opposes expanded non-Indian gaming opportunities. The reasons given for supporting tribal gaming are consistent with the purposes behind IGRA: the revenues will help the Tribes and surrounding communities become economically self-sufficient and Tribes should have the right to govern their own lands.

"Before tribal gaming, there had been little successful economic development on reservations..."