

Gambling Accepted as Aid to Tax Program

BY JAMES R. CAMPBELL
United Press International
 Hot Springs, Ark.—The Vapors Club is the plushiest of several casinos in this mineral bath resort town in this state where gambling is "illegal."

The Vapors has a distinct Las Vegas atmosphere, although the waitresses are more matronly and the negro waiters serving free drinks in the gaming room add a flare of the old south.

Expensive entertainers trot their stuff on a wide stage at one end of the elegant, two-tiered dining room while the drinking trade watches from the S-shaped bar along one wall. (Liquor also is illegal).

From the dining room and lobby doors lead into a smartly-decorated room with thick carpet and heavy drapes over the wide windows. Slot machines line all four walls and their jingling and whirring is virtually incessant. The felt-covered tables for craps, roulette, blackjack and poker also

do a brisk business. There's nothing sneaky about the gambling here. The casinos at the Vapors and several other clubs—the Southern, Belevdere, Tower, to name a few—are about as inconspicuous as the signs outside which advertise the current stage attraction.

Arkansas' anti-gambling laws are ignored here with complete impunity.

Ignore the Law
 In fact, the municipal government collects a black market tax—known at city hall as the "amusement tax"—on the big gambling clubs and lesser establishments where one-armed bandits and card games proliferate. City employees call on gambling places quarterly, collecting \$500 a month from large clubs where craps, blackjack, poker, chuck-a-luck, rummy and other games of chance are featured. Smaller clubs pay \$200 a month. Where cards only are played, the tariff is \$50.

Any place where mixed drinks are served kicks in \$50 each month, except for fraternal organizations which pay \$25. Slot and pinball machines are taxed at \$5 a month each.

Since 1958, when the "amusement tax" ordinance was passed, the revenue has amounted to about \$350,000. The money is being applied to the 4,000-seat, \$1.26 million convention center the city is building.

Betting Legal
 Only on-track pari-mutuel betting is legal in Arkansas and the betting at Oakland park here last year amounted to \$24,112,900. But local sources estimated "very conservatively" that the posh casinos in Garland county did a neat \$2.5 million in illicit business.

Newspapers and clergy speak out frequently against gambling and, on occasion, a politician adds his voice of dissent. For years now, none of the gambling places has been raided.

In recent weeks, a federal grand jury looked into possible violations of federal gambling laws but failed to find any. And an explosion—written off as the work of a "drunk or fanatic"—did \$125,000 damage to the Vapors and injured 12 persons. Otherwise gambling has gone on quietly and profitably.

Gambling Tax Needed
 Mayor Dan Wolf won't say directly he thinks gambling is desirable. He describes it as "a situation we've grown up with."

About the "amusement tax," he said: "We'd be handicapped if we didn't get it."

"I'll be honest with you. We wouldn't be handicapped in operating the city but we would be in making future improvement."

Wolf said he thought it might be a good idea if Arkansas legalized gambling so it could be regulated and taxed by the state.

of, gambling haven't lost a respect for the law.

State officials—including Gov. Orval Faubus—take the position that gambling in Hot Springs is a local matter. Before he was elected governor, Faubus said he would have the gambling places raided, but he since has changed his position, saying he won't send state police unless they're asked by local officials.

The last time the state enforced the gambling statutes was in the post-World War II years when Marine Corps hero Sidney S. McMath was elected governor. McMath never said flatly he'd raid the places, but they closed up quickly when he went into office in 1946.

In 1949, a group of 63 merchants organized the Hot Springs "Better Business Association" and complained that a "lack of recreation" was hurting Hot Springs economically. State enforcement ceased thereafter.

No More Raids
 Local authorities raided the gambling places occasionally before the "amusement tax" ordinance was passed in 1958. There have been no raids since.

There was some speculation that the bombing at the Vapors was the work of New York, Chicago or Kansas City interests trying to muscle into the local gambling. Gambling proprietors and local officials scoff at such suggestions.

Prosecutor David Whittington said "syndicate" gamblers are not tolerated here and are sent packing as soon as they

get in town. Anthony (Tough Tony) Accardo, ex-Al Capone aide from Chicago, was booted out last fall, Whittington said.

Accardo and such underworld luminaries as Capone, Frank Costello and Lucky Luciano once spent much time here. Luciano was arrested here in 1936 and returned to New York for prosecution which led to his deportation.

Hot Springs Flow
 The 47 hot springs, which bursitis sufferers have sworn by for decades, still flow abundantly and "bathhouse row" does a flourishing business.

The city's economy is flourishing, too. Building permits, mostly for resort hotels and motels, rose sharply last year and gross income in 1962 topped the previous year by an estimated 12 per cent.

Business circles attribute at least part of the economic progress to the lure of the gambling machines and gaming tables.

A legislator from another county introduced a bill in the Arkansas legislature last week to set up a special division of the state police to investigate gambling, make arrests and initiate prosecutions of gambling law violations.

As for local folks, they seem to agree with Mayor Wolf who says, "I don't mess with the gamblers and 'they don't mess with the city.'"

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CASINOS FLOURISH—Patrons try their luck at table in local gambling casino in Hot Springs. The state revenue department estimated some 400,465 customers bet more than \$24-million during last season's 43-day racing period. (UPI)

Bill To Establish Board Introduced

A bill which would establish a state board of psychologist examiners within the department of education and prohibit use of the term "psychologist" without meeting certification standards has been introduced by State

Sen. Alfred H. Corbett (D-Multnomah county), Lynn Newbry (R-Jackson county) and Ted Hallock (D-Multnomah county) and Representatives C. R. Hoyt (R-Benton county) and Grace Peck (D-Multnomah county) and others.

White Praised in Court Resolution

Retired Experiment Station Superintendent Harold White was praised by Jackson county court in a resolution yesterday.

The experimental program carried on at the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station has contributed greatly to the agricultural economy of Jackson county, the court stated. Individual owners and operators have benefited by the per acre yield increases, the resolution stated.

"Mr. White has with diligent work combined the highest degree of honesty and integrity and endowed the county with the finest agronomic research. The county court wishes to thank him for a job well done," the resolution noted.

Only exceptions under the bill would be certain persons employed by bona fide educational institutions and non-profit organizations.

The measure prohibits a person from representing himself to be a psychologist by using a title employing terms "psychological," "psychologist" or similar terms unless certified under the act. Such representation would become a misdemeanor after July 1, 1965.

If the legislation is passed, Oregon will join 22 states which have passed statutes aimed at controlling unqualified and improper practice of psychology.

A special provision is written into the bill to provide that when a certified psychologist engages in psychotherapy, he shall "collaborate with a physician" in order to make provisions for "diagnosis and treatment of medical problems."



AN ARMFUL—Mrs. Ramon E. Sagales, 27, of Argentina, cuddles her quadruplets, from left, Ana Marie, Leonor del Carmen, Jose Adolfo, and Isabel Haydes. The infants were born Jan. 21. She has two other children, Ricardo 5, and Rita, 8. (UPI)

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