

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, if we can come
2 to order, please. This is a hearing by the Committee on
3 State Finance and Taxation of the Maryland Constitutional
4 Convention Commission.

5 We are here today to discuss Article 3,
6 Section 36 of the Maryland Constitution, which provides
7 as follows: No lottery grant shall ever hereafter be
8 authorized by the General Assembly.

9 This particular provision of the Constitution
10 found its way into our basic law in the Constitution of
11 1851 and has remained in its present form unchanged through
12 the successive drafts of 1864 and 1867. The anti-lottery
13 provision has a rather interesting history but we are
14 not going to take our time this afternoon to go into all
15 of it. Suffice it to say that one time in this state
16 the lottery was rather well known and often used method
17 of raising revenue. It was taken out of the law in 1851
18 because it was felt that there were various problems that
19 were caused by the existence of a lottery which the state
20 would be better served not to have to face.

21 The issue here today is whether or not this