



Remarks by Joel Rose for CAGNY press Conference, Albany, New York, May 21, 2012

Casino gambling “doesn’t generate wealth, it just redistributes it.” That was **Mario Cuomo** in his 1994 book, *The New York Idea*. “There is a respectable body of economic thought that holds that casino gambling is actually economically regressive to a state and a community,” he said then.

And that was certainly true. Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Samuelson observed that gambling “involves simply the sterile transfers of money or goods between individuals, creating no new money or goods. ... Although it creates no output, gambling does nevertheless absorb time and resources. When pursued beyond the limits of recreation ... gambling subtracts from the national income.”

Cuomo warned that if the Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment to bring casinos to the state, he might “fight the proposal in public debate.”

What a difference a generation makes! **Andrew** Cuomo, in a feat of Orwellian logic, wants to legalize casino gambling so we can see whether or not it would be good for the economy of the state. What if all the independent economists are right and it’s **bad** for the economy, Governor? What then?

While **Andrew** Cuomo says that since we already have gambling, we ought to just legalize it and do it “right,” **Mario** Cuomo, facing the same set of circumstances, said “There is no question that we have made concessions to gambling. All I’m saying is, enough is enough. Casinos are a whole different breed. It changes communities.”

It certainly does. Anyone who believes, as Andrew Cuomo does, that the claims of economic and other harm are overblown, is invited to visit Niagara Falls. Be sure to look at the boarded up buildings right around the casino. And talk to someone other than the local public officials. Talk to some of the business people who believed the hype the Governor Pataki dished out when he announced the Seneca Gaming Compact: “Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!” – the same nonsense that Governor Andrew Cuomo is now delivering. I have talked to many of those people, and they don’t want to be Charlie Brown ever trying to kick the casino football.

We know the harm from gambling addiction is real and documented. The supposed benefits are **not** documented because they are an industry lie that is repeated mindlessly by overly trusting politicians. Let’s not go down that road.