



Some Thoughts On...

Wednesday, January 16, 2008



On Monday evening, Jan, 7, while much of America was watching the BCS College Football Championship game on TV, there was a meeting in Muskegon where Indian tribal officials from the Upper Peninsula, hundreds of miles away from Muskegon, were informing the city officials of their plans to try and bring a casino to their city ... There are people in Muskegon who would welcome a casino into their community and see it as a major economic development tool ... There are others who would fight the possibility of a casino presence in their community on moral grounds ... What has become obvious since this meeting took place, is the dead silence from the two organizations formed to fight the expansion of gaming in west Michigan—"23 is Enough" and MichGO! ... The silence from these two stalwart, civic and open-minded, publicly driven, community organizations, is ear shattering! ... Like their opposition to other tribal casino initiatives and state lottery initiatives, you hear nary a peep ... Both "23 is Enough" and Michigan Gambling Opposition (MichGO) were formed for one reason and one reason only—to make sure that a gambling casino was not constructed at Grand Rapid's back door before wealthy developers there could build a casino of their own city ... By harassing the efforts of Allegan County's Gun Lake tribe in building the casino they envisioned years ago to finance tribal services for their members, they were buying time ... It did not matter that the economic stimulus generated by the creation of a casino in Bradley would reduce the unemployment in our area and lessen the pain being caused by it, as long as construction plans were stymied ... The fabricated claims that "23 is Enough" and MichGO are statewide anti-gambling crusaders has dissolved finally in a cloud of deception ... They will not fight a casino in Muskegon any more than they fought the Four Winds Casino ... They are not fighting the establishment of a horse race track near Romulus, nor are they concerned with the environmental impact that track will have on the drainage system in that area ... Their target is the Gun Lake casino, and that is what they were paid to destroy ... I have to wonder why all those folks who have allowed "23 is Enough" to use their names as members have not wondered why their fight against casino expansion in Michigan has never extended any farther than Bradley in Wayland Township?