

Innocent Person Interrogated

The following letter to the editor was submitted to local papers; all declined.

Two and a half years ago, I assisted several Jefferson County residents to create the "Vote No Table Games.org" web site. As volunteers with limited funds, our purpose was to provide accurate information to the public regarding the potential consequences of gambling expansion.

Shortly after the election, I arrived home one evening to find a private investigator on my doorstep. (He had been waiting a considerable length of time, according to my teenage daughter, who was understandably shaken at having a man lingering outside our home.) He informed me that he had been hired by Penn National Gaming to find out who had paid me to create the "Vote No" web page. Although I assured him I was strictly a volunteer, he remained convinced that another gambling corporation had hired me to work against Penn National's bid to legalize table games. He questioned me for quite awhile and, unable to obtain the information he was looking for, finally left.

This incident was very disturbing to my entire family. The investigator had gone to great lengths to discover not only who created the web page but where I lived (by that time I had moved out of Jefferson County.) I felt my privacy had been violated and I was being harassed for simply exercising my rights as a citizen.

Recently I learned from another "Vote No Table Games" member that a private investigator had been approached to gather information about her. Is this what we are to expect from the gambling industry? Will they go to any length to get what they want, including investigating individuals who dare to express opposition?

I urge you to seriously consider if it would be wise to give more power and control to gambling interests in Jefferson County. From my personal experience, it would not be.

Brian Lovejoy

VoteNoTableGames.ORG