

the first Indian casino is so well-documented that it was exposed in 1985 on national television. The ABC News "20/20" program showed that organized crime figures Irving "Slick" Shapiro and Rocco Zangari ran the casino for Nichols, and that one Tommy Marson, previously convicted of bankruptcy fraud in an organized crime skimming case, lent Nichols \$50,000 in startup money.

How has Nichols been able to get away with his crimes? According to the testimony of his former bodyguard Hughes: "Nichols has made a deal with the FBI through the Wackenhut Corp. Possibly . . . he himself has been protected by the FBI."

Indeed, the Cabazons, through Nichols, had entered into a partnership with the \$600 million-a-year Wackenhut Corp., which included proposals to manufacture air-fuel explosives, advanced firearms, night-vision goggles, and biological weapons on the reservation. Participants later acknowledged that some of these weapons were supposed to be shipped to the Nicaraguan Contras. Other schemes included a joint venture to provide a security system for the palace of Crown Prince Fahd in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

In 1980, as part of these arrangements, Wackenhut deployed computer expert Michael Riconosciuto to the Cabazon Reservation. Riconosciuto is also a convicted drug trafficker, who claims to have been involved in several covert operations under the Reagan-Bush administration. (One of

Riconosciuto's partners in the Cabazon weapons deals, suspected drug money-launderer Paul Morasca, was murdered in San Francisco in January 1982.)

Wackenhut itself is an important branch of the U.S. "intelligence community." Former CIA head William Casey was its outside counsel before 1981. Wackenhut's corporate directors include former FBI director Clarence Kelley; Frank Carlucci, former secretary of defense and CIA deputy director; Gen. Joseph Carol, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; and James J. Rowley, former director of the U.S. Secret Service.

'The Octopus'

In August 1991, freelance journalist Danny Casolaro planned to visit the Cabazon reservation, as part of an investigation of what he called "the Octopus." Casolaro was digging into an alleged conspiracy against the Inslaw computer company, which has a lawsuit against the Department of Justice, involving the DOJ, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, and the Iran-Contra principals, among other possible connections. In a book proposal, Casolaro listed Nichols as a "former CIA agent."

A few days before his visit to Cabazon, Casolaro's body was found in a West Virginia motel room. His death was ruled a "suicide."

Former N.D. governor backs casino opponents

Former North Dakota Gov. Arthur A. Link, along with other members of the North Dakota Council on Gambling Problems, addressed the following letter to Standing Rock Indian Reservation casino opponents Dorla Sadler and Phyllis Wilcox on Dec. 2, 1992:

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to respond to the request for moral support made by you, and other members of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, who are opposed to casino gambling on the reservation.

We are in complete agreement with your stand against casino gambling, and sincerely hope that government officials will respond to your request for public hearings and a congressional investigation.

Promoters of casino gambling promise jobs and easy money for economic development and social programs but say nothing about the social costs. The following are some examples of gambling problems:

- Twelve of DE Counseling Service in Bismarck have filed bankruptcy in last 2 months;
- A lady, 36, twice divorced—dual addiction—borrowed \$1,200 from her employer—lost it all in one day at pull tabs and blackjack;
- A male, married, two children. In three years lost 2 real estate businesses. Lost \$50 to \$30,000 at roulette in Las Vegas. Three-year losses=\$108,000.
- A male, 44, married, 2 children—one high school, one college. Last Christmas no gifts. Lost 2 homes. Lost 8 jobs; 3 involved embezzlement of funds.

The expansion of gambling sweeping the whole country, including North Dakota, is a troubling sign and we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg. We see much pain and disruption of families and neglect of children as a result of gambling.

There must be a better way to develop the economic and social lifestyle than by gambling. The Indian Trust Funds, for example, could be used in conjunction with other available resources to develop manufacturing, processing, agriculture, science and education on the reservation. Every legitimate means should be pursued to help create good productive jobs for reservation people.

We truly appreciate your bringing this important issue to our attention, since the outcome will affect all of us.