

Segal Backs Hughes on N.J. Lottery

By FRED HAMILTON
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The head of the ACTION Committee for Legalized Gaming said Monday he had sent a telegram to Gov. Richard J. Hughes supporting the governor's stand on a statewide lottery.

Meyer I. (Mike) Segal of Ventnor also said he informed the governor that the ACTION Committee not only favored legalized gaming for Atlantic City, but would like the issue to be put up for county option throughout the state.

"We definitely want to see casino-type gaming in Atlantic City," Segal said, "but we think it should be up to each county to decide if it wants legalized gaming or not."

Segal was replying to a statement made Sunday by Hughes, in which the Democratic governor went on record as favoring a statewide lottery, but opposing legalized gaming for just one community such as Atlantic City.

Hughes said, however, that he would favor it on a statewide basis.

"I sent the telegram because I wanted the governor to know just exactly how we stand," the former president of the Ventnor City Council said.

Segal, along with a group of local businessmen including Gary Malamut of the Shelburne Industries, and Maxwell (Sonny) Goldberg, co-owner of Howard Johnson's Hotel, have been pushing to bring legalized gaming to Atlantic City for several months.

Segal said Monday that the bulk of the organization's work is research at this point.

"Members of the committee are working on a comprehensive report that should be ready sometime in February," he said.

Segal also indicated support for his movement has been gaining throughout the past several weeks.

"Just today I got a telephone
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Segal Supports Hughes' Stand

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call from the owner of a radio station in Ohio inquiring about our progress. We are really beginning to pick up steam now."

The group is trying to bring casino-type gambling to Atlantic City in much the same style as it is now being operated in Puerto Rico.

They have said that no slot machines would be allowed, and that a strong state commission should be formed to oversee all

gaming operations and issue licenses.

In addition, the groups said that no drinking would be allowed in the rooms where gaming would be held, but that food and beverages would be available.

"There will be regular bars in other parts of gaming establishments, but not where the gaming is actually taking place," Segal said.

"We're after a quiet, sophisticated atmosphere."