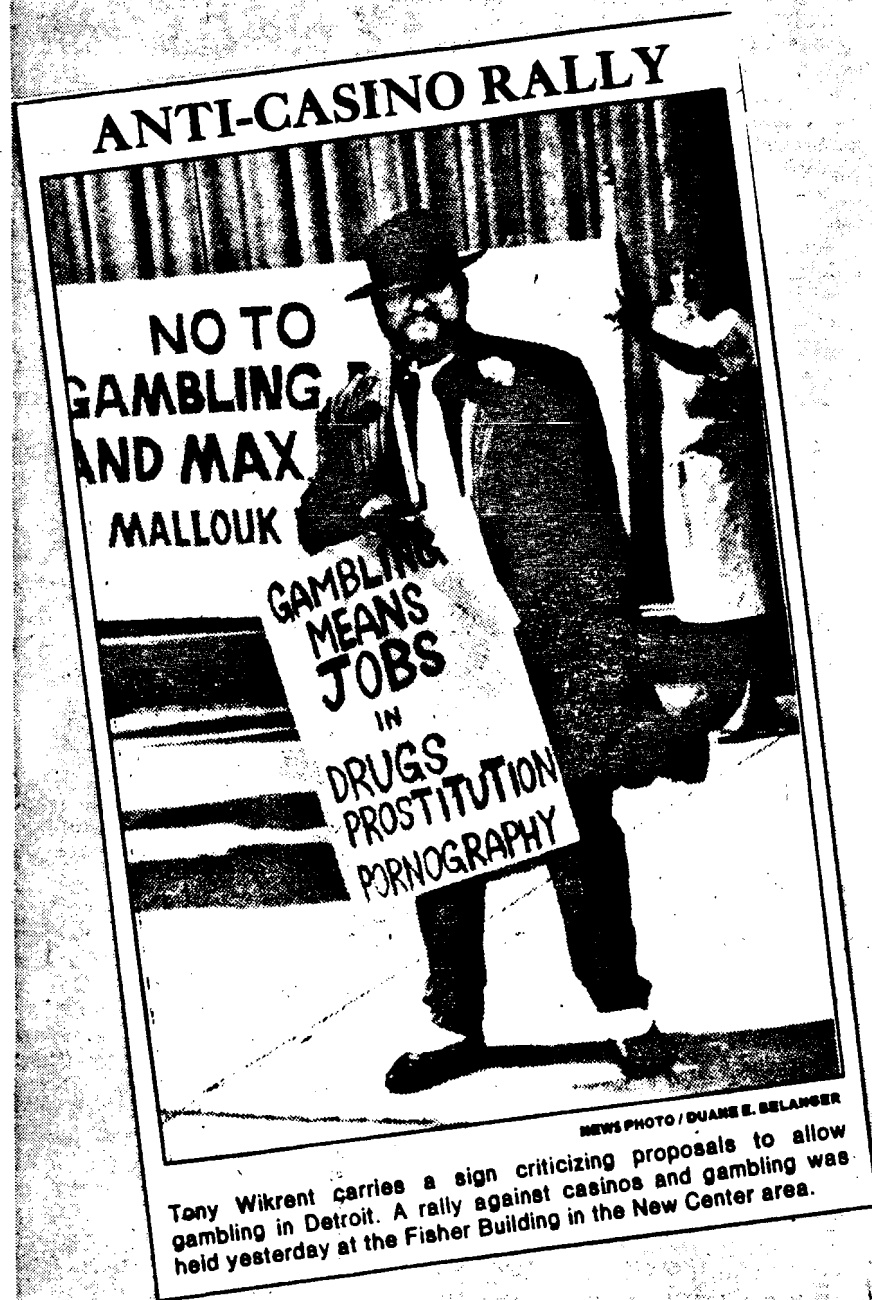


Detroit Anti-Casino Rally Blasts Max Fisher



Tony Wikrent carries a sign criticizing proposals to allow gambling in Detroit. A rally against casinos and gambling was held yesterday at the Fisher Building in the New Center area.

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Special to New Solidarity

DETROIT, Sept. 6 (NSIPS)—It was a startling sight here yesterday in the middle of the noontime crowd at the Fisher Building: Mugsy the mobster, in pin-stripes, black shirt, white tie, carnation, fedora, and spats, carrying a violin case and a sign: "Casinos Create Jobs . . . In Drugs, Prostitution, Pornography." The husky hoodlum was being filmed by CBS-TV and the black-owned TV station, WGPR, while the two leading news stations interviewed him and the Detroit News snapped photographs.

Mugsy had arrived to represent the absent Mayor Coleman Young at a National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) rally at the headquarters of Max Fisher, of Dope, Inc. The rally was addressed by five candidates from the "Save Detroit Industry" slate, which is endorsed by the NDPC, and by four other candidates running in the Sept. 10 municipal primary election. Mayor Young, a front man for Fisher and Resorts International, which proposes to build a 12-casino gambling complex in Detroit, had tried to make the primary into a non-event, with the collusion of the news media, but the NDPC outflanked him.

Behind Mugsy was a huge banner: "No to Gambling, Dope, and Max Fisher; Mallouk for Mayor." Other SDI candidates' signs read "Build Industry in Detroit, Casinos in Moscow," "Give Moscow a Headache—Send Max Fisher to Siberia," "Support Peru's War on Drugs."

The SDI slate had invited all anti-casino candidates, incumbents and challengers, by telephone and with a flyer, "Will Casinos Save Detroit? Don't Bet on It!" A mayoral candidate, a city clerk candidate, and two city council candidates joined the SDI speakers; one council candidate, moved by the SDI slate's demand for industrial resurgence in Detroit, gave a speech insisting the city needs jobs that uplift, not degrade.

Creating Real Jobs

From the SDI slate, the speakers were council candidates Eugene Fagg, Dan Ostrowski, Hank Wilson, Gerry Berg, and mayoral candidate Doug Mallouk. Wilson, a former president of the UAW Assembly Division at the Ford Rouge complex, presented his proposal for a second Walter Reuther Commission, to re-

starving underdeveloped sector. This, he said, is the way to create real jobs. Mallouk and Berg gave briefings on Max Fisher and his United Brands corporation ("The Octopus," known for shipping illegal drugs in its banana boats). Ostrowski and Fagg stressed the economic insanity of gambling as a "growth industry."

Two dozen participants in the rally chanted "Legalized Vice—No Dice!," "Jobs Yes, Casinos No, Organized Crime Has Got to Go!" and "Max Fisher, Lighten Our Load—Get Out of Town, Hit Eight Mile Road!"

Eight Mile Road is Detroit's northern border. Mayor Young has often used the phrase "Hit Eight Mile" as a way of rebaiting "white suburbanite" opponents.

Mugsy the mobster spoke twice on the megaphone, in praise of Max Fisher and the Soviets, and was roundly booed and told to go back to Moscow. The crowd of white-collar workers and executives thoroughly enjoyed the rally; Detroiters, preoccupied with crime, overwhelmingly oppose casino gambling—though Fisher, Resorts International, and Mayor Young are counting on worsening industrial collapse to convince the public that casinos are the only option for jobs.

Indeed, an individual with the earmarks of an FBI stringer went to the trouble of distributing a leaflet near the rally site proclaiming that casinos are better than welfare and Aid to Dependent Children payments, while Coleman Young's police tried to stop SDI supporters from distributing their own leaflets.

Today, the Detroit News carried a large photograph of Mugsy the mobster. All-news station WWJ broadcast a clip of the rally, playing a tape of Hank Wilson describing the Reuther Plan, and ending with the announcer's summary: "Their slogan is that you can't stop Russian missiles with a poker chip, or feed Africa on a roulette wheel." On Sept. 3, the Detroit Free Press had quoted Mallouk as stating: "The real question is reversing the cultural pessimism which accompanies deindustrialization, and which is always the basis for crime. Since an overwhelming portion of Detroit crime is drug-related, I would declare war on narcotics traffic. I would give the 'legalize gambling' lobby a one-way ticket to Russia