

conservatism. It was (modestly) revolutionary last year when Gréault decided to institute seasonal menus. But regulars—lobbyists, lawyers and other congressional congregants—didn't have to worry. Along with such new arrivals as blackened tuna and a few pasta dishes, survive the old standbys: vichyssoise, lobster bisque, steak and fries, medallions of pork and eggs Benedict.

Because Washingtonians tend to work through dinner, lunch is when to join the local crowd. You have to be fast, though. The efficient and attentive service is designed to meet the Washington rule of the 45-minute lunch. Like the restaurant, the wine list is conventional and not exorbitantly priced. If, however, you wish to emulate the denizens, iced tea or sparkling water are your drink of choice. ●

DESPITE LEGAL ISSUES, VIRTUAL DICE ARE ROLLING

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask that the following article be printed in the RECORD.

[From USA Today, Nov. 17, 1995]

DESPITE LEGAL ISSUES, VIRTUAL DICE ARE ROLLING

(By Linda Kanamine)

Forget Las Vegas. Skip Atlantic City.

In an instant, on-line card games, slots, roulette, keno, craps and sports betting could be available to everyone with a computer and a phone.

Everyone is ready—the games, the virtual casinos, even a new way to pay.

Billions of dollars are riding on just one more thing, the government's OK.

But so far, law officials are saying "No dice." The technology may be fine, but there's no protection for bettors.

"People are literally being asked to send money to somebody 4,000 miles away, who is not regulated and not controlled," says Minnesota Deputy Attorney General Tom Pursell. "Just give him your credit card number and trust him to tell you when you've won. Now, what's wrong with this picture?"

Even as law enforcement balks at virtual casinos, the vast, unregulated Internet computer network has about 200 gambling-related sites.

While most are how-to-play tutorials or ads for future games, a handful are defiantly taking wagers.

"The vice watchers are really taking a look at this," says Jeff Frentzen, who follows Internet trends for PC Week magazine. "The Internet is insecure. It's become a major hot-button issue and there will be many attempts to put controls on it."

But how to control it?

Upstart operators already are in business in the Caribbean and Liechtenstein as they capitalize on the appeal of gaming.

Players, propelled by a new electronic cash system that replaces credit cards, already can click their computer mice on a handful of on-line sites and place their bets.

Most of those still look like a kid's video game. Blackjack? Your cards come up under the dealers' hand, you choose "hit" or "stay," the computer adds up your cards for you. Roulette? The wheel turns on screen as you click your "red" or "black," "even" or "odd" numbers.

Some are clearly adults-only. Sex World, for instance, features topless female dealers.

Still, it's hardly the \$10 billion bonanza that gambling aficionados predicted would explode across the Internet six months ago. Gambling enthusiasts remain worried about ripoffs.

The first court challenge comes in December when Minnesota Attorney General Hu-

bert "Skip" Humphrey Jr. tries to stop Las Vegas-based Granite Gate Resorts Inc. from offering on-line gambling.

Humphrey says simply advertising a future service is consumer fraud because federal and state laws bar betting over communications wires or with credit cards.

"We're trying to raise the issue before the cat's out of the bag with this," says Pursell, his deputy. "This sets a precedent on dealing with the Internet in general."

Policing computer users could ultimately affect cyberspace, from chat rooms and shopping to pornography and, of course, gambling. But blocking computer gambling may be tougher than hitting a royal flush.

A recent study found nearly 37 million people in the USA and Canada now have access to the Internet.

And polls have found at least 65% of adults have gambled, from lotteries and office pools to illegal sports bets. Wagering on legal games (casinos, lotteries and racetracks) has skyrocketed from \$17 billion in 1976 to \$480 billion last year and more than \$500 billion this year.

Last month, St. Louis' Mark Twain Bank opened the first electronic-cash accounts. The bank turns account dollars into e-cash credits, which the customer spends on-line. The customer sends an encrypted code to the bank, which approves the payment.

"I absolutely believe there will be billion-dollar companies 10 years from now doing interactive gambling," says Colleen Anderson, president of IWN Inc. in Carlsbad, Calif., which develops interactive gambling programs.

"The potential is phenomenal. But we've got big hurdles to get over, like the regulations to say it's legal," she adds.

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs have headed offshore to take advantage of lax regulations abroad and the distance from U.S. law enforcement officials.

Many, like 34-year-old Toronto businessman Warren Eugene, are betting that U.S. agents will be too busy to bother with at-home gamblers.

His Internet Casinos is run from the Caribbean islands of Turks and Caicos. Click onto the site's home page and an eye-patched pirate runs a hand through coins and jewels overflowing a treasure chest at this "Caribbean Casino."

Registered players with passwords choose from 18 games, including Asian favorites, and casino themes ranging from the cowboys-in-leather West World to the topless Sex World.

In five months, he claims 25,000 have registered to play; 2,800 from Canada, Europe and especially Asia bet regularly. Casino jackpots have paid up to \$1,400 and a football bet "well over \$100,000."

With 22% of the gross going to the company—far higher than Las Vegas casinos, which hold about 8%—and no sizeable overhead costs, Eugene predicts "huge, huge, huge profits, almost obscene profits."

He says he doesn't accept U.S. gamblers unless they have an offshore bank account and even warns Americans on the home page to stay away.

There's no such warning on one of the newest gambling sites, a weekly Lotto run by the government of tiny Liechtenstein. Launched Oct. 7, it promises a minimum weekly jackpot of \$1 million.

Justice Department officials concede gambling isn't a top priority. "The Internet, we have no set policy," says spokesman John Russell. "It's a very exciting time to be in law enforcement looking at these issues. The scope is so obviously huge."

Yet most law enforcement agents insist that gambling is so stigmatized by links with organized crime, scandals and fraud that it must be regulated.

Critics say virtual casinos will increase debt and social angst. "People will get involved over their heads," says Ed Looney of the Council on Compulsive Gambling in New Jersey.

"On-line hits a bunch of people who are the shut-ins, who will now have access to a casino," he says.

And many will be underage wagers behind the anonymity of a modem and their parents' credit cards.

So where is all this going?

"There isn't a lot of activity yet. I think there's a wait-and-see attitude while the martyrs go out and . . . make the mistakes," says PC Week's Frentzen. "The Internet is a free system. It was never intended to be used for commercial purposes. The biggest hurdle will be consumer confidence, is this safe?" ●

WALTER J. BROWN: A TRUE FRIEND

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends, Walter J. Brown of Spartanburg, who passed away this morning at the age of 92. My personal sense of loss is compounded as the city of Spartanburg and the entire State of South Carolina also will miss Walter's warmth, service, generosity, and integrity.

Mr. President, Walter Brown was a pioneer in television and the communications industry in South Carolina. As founder in 1940 of the Spartan Radiocasting Co., now Spartan Communications, Inc., Walter built WSPA into a broadcasting powerhouse. His WSPA-AM was South Carolina's first radio station. Similarly, WSPA-FM was the State's first FM station and the first to broadcast in stereo in the Southeast.

But Walter Brown's crowning achievement is how he built WSPA-TV into a CBS stronghold in the Piedmont area. First on the air in 1956, WSPA-TV is known throughout South Carolina and the South as a premier broadcaster that reports the news, but also works to better the community.

Mr. President, Walter Brown was born in Bowman, GA. He was educated at Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady School of Journalism. After managing his own news bureau in Washington, DC, he moved to Spartanburg to continue his career in journalism.

During World War II, Mr. Brown returned to Washington to serve as a special assistant to James F. Byrnes—before and during the times when he was Secretary of State. Later, after he had returned to Spartanburg, he wrote a book that remembered all that Senator Byrnes had done for the Nation.

Mr. President, in the years since I was Lieutenant Governor in the 1950s, Walter Brown was my close friend and adviser. I will miss the wise counsel that Walter provided—not only politically but on the full range of communications issues. He was fair, insightful, and visionary. Our loss is the Nation's loss.

Mr. President, as we mourn the loss of Walter Brown, let's remember how