

James Nagourney statement, July 11, 2016 SNTIC

My name is James Nagourney. These 3 minutes will be the first time you have heard an opinion from anyone with professional sports experience who is not being paid to have an opinion.

In their 3 hour rebuttal you'll probably be told I'm out of date and don't know anything about today's game. Well, I know this: 2 and 2 is still 4 unless Sands Majestic is doing the math -then it becomes 8,000 jobs that will never exist.

Nearly 40 years ago, as a county official, I had to re-negotiate a new lease with the New York Islanders for Nassau Coliseum. I recruited as special counsel the smartest, toughest lawyer I knew. "Jim, first thing we do is gather intelligence; assume what the other side gives you is misinformation." That man was William Casey, who ONE year later was Director of the CIA, giving his advice added cachet.

Was Bill ever right. From day one, this committee has been skillfully fed projections and assumptions that no one who has ever run a major league venue would take seriously.

Page 1 in the binder should be enough to require an adjournment: did you know that the only sports economist providing data on this project believes there is NO ECONOMIC BENEFIT from having an NFL team?

Your binders also contain an email to me from a prominent sports economist from West Virginia University, Dr. Brad Humphries. His email pulls no punches in describing Dr. Rosentraub's reputation among colleagues...in simple terms, Rosentraub believes whatever the client pays him to believe. When not on the payroll, he believes what virtually every other sports economist believes --- no economic benefits from an NFL team. I had to dig deep to catch him telling the truth 7 months ago in Cleveland. Thank you Bill Casey.

Next, you have all those rosie projections from CSL. What do you expect? Sands Majestic signs their paychecks. Here's what Andrew Zimberlist, the reigning rock star among sports economists, said about CSL in an email to me on June 28:

"CSL has a long history of saying whatever its client wants it to say".

A copy is the last page in the binder...I have redacted some other comments that were off the record---the comments on CSL are unedited.

Mr. Carey, the little guy's friend from Goldman Sachs, makes circles in the air and invents something he calls Velocity, velocity where money circulates and multiplies. Bull. There's no velocity. What there is is a Vortex, where the money you spend on a Raiders ticket gets sucked out of town. Economists call it leakage, and if you don't thoroughly understand it then you can't understand this deal. I have read the minutes. It has not been explained to you and I am not allowed enough time.

The father of sports economics, the ultimate authority is Professor Roger Noll, of Stanford. Much of his pioneering work is included in the binders. Over the past two weeks, Professor Noll and I have engaged in extensive communication. Dr. Noll has raised many questions and offered many comments, more than I can cover. However, Mr. Chairman, I have placed copies of his emails in your binder. The best consulting advice in the world, free.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer you Zimbalist and Noll, the two titans. They over you Rosentraub, the chameleon. What are you gonna do?