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Introduction to American Politics

KNPR's State of Nevada

This segment is about what to expect when the Las Vegas casinos reopen after they were requested to shut down completely in an effort to slow down the spread of the coronavirus. When the new coronavirus started to spread all around the globe, people started imposing travel bans and their own efforts into stopping the further spread of what was then a “bad flu”. Fatal effects were soon recognized as time passed and people started taking it seriously. When the virus hit Nevada, our very own Governor Steve Sisolak requested the casinos and non-essential businesses to shut down temporarily two months ago. As the rate of new cases slows, he was expected to allow some of the non-essential businesses to reopen in a month. However, people are afraid. Some are anxious of the spreading of the virus just worsening, while others are worried that the economy will not be able to get back up on its feet if people were to wait a little longer. With this in consideration, the reopening of businesses will have to have extra health and safety regulations in preparation.

The participants in this segment are radio host Chris Sieroty, publisher Roger Gros of Global Gaming Business Magazine and executive editor of CDC Gaming Reports Howard Stutz. The issue the participants were most concerned with is how to approach the reopening of the Las Vegas casinos.

Gros believes that the best way to approach it is to reopen immediately and find out the best procedures along the way. He is worried that the preparation period before opening the casinos is going to take too long. Gros, however, acknowledged that the governor is not at all willing to even consider immediate reopening at this point and so there's really not much to be done. While people prepared for reopening instead, Gros thinks that Las Vegas casino owners should also consider taking this opportunity to reinvent the Strip. He thinks that the city lost its value over time by charging parking fees, resort fees and overpriced stuff and that reducing prices should help lure guests back in.

Howard Stutz had a different idea, opposite of what Gros had. He believes that the casinos should take all the time they need for the safety precautions. He acknowledged that guests would probably need a lot of convincing to come back to the casinos and play, what with the economy and the fear of the virus coming back. In other words, it is up to the casinos to show guests that they took all the safety precautions they needed and are ready. Stutz mentioned that the Gaming commission is scheduled an announcement of safety regulations that are on the lowest standard of regulations that are still safe possible and that it is up to the businesses to do more. He also acknowledged what the people's opinion might be on the new safety precautions such as masks. He expects people to be completely accepting, even if people would have been completely weirded out by staff wearing masks before this pandemic started. One of the casino owners has already started. LAs Vegas Sands, owner of the Venetian and the Palazzo announced its plan for reopening. They were going to install thermal monitors on entrances and prepared an extensive plan for suspected virus contaminated rooms.

In this segment, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention was mentioned. This is a federal agency responsible for researching information needed for the prevention of disease, health promotion, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats in America. It is only one of the many federal agencies of the government. Their importance was highlighted especially when the pandemic started. They immediately announced safety regulations on how the essential businesses that remained opened should handle the situation. They are now drawing up an elaborate plan on how the reopening of non-essential businesses such as the Las Vegas casinos should be regulated when the Governor does decide to allow reopening. This shows a perfect example of how the federal agencies really do all the important specific jobs. It also highlighted how much the branches depended heavily on each other. The president and governor can decide and announce when things should happen but there'd probably be total chaos without the help of federal agencies and vice versa.