

reviewjournal.com

Subscribe to the R-J See the Internet Special

Jobs Cars Homes Shopping Travel Weddings Golf Best of Las Vegas Photo/Page Store

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIVING ENTERTAINMENT FASHION OPINION WEATHER HOTELS CLASSIFIEDS MULTIMEDIA

Ever feel like sometimes you just want the **news** but not the **paper**?

eRJ from the REVIEW-JOURNAL

Business

- SAVE THIS
- EMAIL THIS
- PRINT THIS
- MOST POPULAR
- RSS FEEDS
- POST A COMMENT

RECENT EDITIONS
[Thu](#) [Fri](#) [Sat](#) [Sun](#) [Mon](#) [Tue](#) [Wed](#)

Jul. 26, 2007
 Copyright © Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nation wants to strike bargain

Caribbean country prefers deal over fine

By TONY BATT
 STEPHENS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- Although it is demanding \$3.4 billion per year from the [United States](#) for outlawing Internet gambling, the island nation of [Antigua and Barbuda](#) would prefer a compromise that would allow Americans to gamble legally online, a lawyer for the [Caribbean](#) country said Wednesday.

The Bush administration announced in May it would withdraw the U.S. gambling sector from the jurisdiction of the [World Trade Organization](#).

The announcement followed a ruling in March by a WTO appellate court in favor of the claim by Antigua and Barbuda that the U.S. ban on Internet gambling is illegal.

Mark Mendel, the attorney representing Antigua and Barbuda, said the U.S. withdrawal does not eliminate its obligation to pay for the Web gambling ban.

But after a four-year dispute, Mendel said he hopes the WTO ruling will convince the United States to negotiate a compromise.

"We have never taken the position that the United States should have to open its doors to unfettered Internet gambling to countries around the world or even to Antigua, as such," said Mendel, an attorney based in El Paso, Texas, who also practices in Ireland.

"But we felt then and we feel now that there is very solid middle ground for some kind of compromise whereby Antigua companies could offer these services into America on a fair and very protected basis without impinging on fundamental objectives of the United States government," Mendel said.

Gretchen Hamel, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Trade Representative's office, said her agency has met with Antigua officials on numerous occasions including as recently as two weeks ago. Another meeting is scheduled for next week in Geneva, Hamel said.

"We have made clear at every stage that we are open to considering creative solutions for the people of Antigua which respect to our legitimate restrictions on Internet gambling," Hamel said.

Mendel made his comments during a panel discussion of Internet gambling at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank.

Mendel praised bills introduced this year in the House by Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., that seek to overturn recent U.S. restrictions on Web gambling.

Berkley's bill, which has 64 co-sponsors including Reps. Dean Heller and Jon Porter, both R-Nev., calls for a one-year study of Internet gambling by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

"We think that it is inevitable that this (Internet gambling) behavior will be legitimized in one way or another in the near term," Mendel said.

Before the Internet gambling restrictions, there were more than 100 Internet gambling operations in Antigua and Barbuda employing more than 10,000 people, Mendel said.

Now there are 30 licensed Internet gambling operators employing about 1,000 people.

VANLINES.com
 FREE Moving Quotes

starting YOUR OWN BUSINESS is easier than you THINK.
 click here to begin your search

Franchise Solutions

Start calling two hours earlier.
 Wait less with night calling starting at 7 p.m.
 Learn more

Sprint ahead

Sponsored Links

Home Design Solutions!
 Quality Home Furnishings Up to 70% off. Visit our Las Vegas showroom!

GolfTEC Lesson Programs
 Build a Game You Can Trust.

Best BBQ in Las Vegas!
 Mon-All You Can Eat Ribs-\$14.99. Also 2 for Tues (4-6:30PM) Visit Us!

- Most Popular Stories
- [OFFICIAL: HOOTERS DEAL LIVES](#)
 - [Strip hotel delays its star turn](#)
 - [More Las Vegas homes head to auction block](#)
 - [Midyear real-estate report says gains in home values abound](#)
 - [Another project on Strip delayed](#)
 - [HARASSMENT: Caesars Palace settles lawsuit](#)
 - [MGM MIRAGE DEAL: Dubai buys into Strip](#)
 - Home groan: Slump still on

"The damage has been done," Mendel said.

Mendel disagreed with John H. Jackson, a law professor at Georgetown University, who described the Internet gambling dispute between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States as an "oops case."

The U.S. is "not thumbing its nose" at international trade obligations but simply made a mistake when it failed to exclude gambling several years ago from WTO jurisdiction, Jackson said.

Jackson also doubted Antigua and Barbuda would succeed in winning \$3.4 billion a year in compensation from the United States, saying the WTO decision was a narrow ruling that focused on horse racing bets made online.

Links powered by [inform.com](#)

Sponsored Links

[Luxury Senior Apartments](#)

Stop mowing the lawn and enjoy life. Nine locations throughout LV.

[Full Service A/C Company](#)

Specializing in A/C, Heating, Freon Leak Detection, New Install & More

[GolfTEC Lesson Programs](#)

Build a Game You Can Trust.

[Comprehensive Dentistry](#)

Restore your Smile! Long and Short Term Treatment Plan for Oral Health.

[Buy a link here](#)

Leave Your Comment

0 Reader Comments

Terms & Conditions

The following comments are provided by readers and are the sole responsibility of the authors. The reviewjournal.com does not review comments before publication nor guarantee their accuracy. By publishing a comment here you agree to abide by the [comment policy](#). If you see a comment that violates the policy, please notify the [web editor](#).

Some comments may not display immediately due to an automatic filter. These comments will be reviewed within 48 hours. **Please do not submit a comment more than once.**

Name:

Email:

COMMENTS :

(word count limit is 300)

Current Word Count: 0

- [Dubai World invests again](#)
- [Valley inventory of homes for sale rises 1.1 percent](#)

MULTIMEDIA



Bush Wants Eavesdropping Law Made Permanent
▶ Play



Alicia Silverstone Appears Naked in PETA TV Ad
▶ Play



Feds: Prosecutor Sought Sex With 5-Year-Old
▶ Play

Looking for
REAL ESTATE

- New Homes
- Resale Homes
- Apartments
- Find an Agent
- Find a Lender
- Mortgage Rates
- Real Estate News

The one place for all your needs
[reviewjournal.com](#)

Nevada's largest newspaper now accessible **wherever** you may be

SUBSCRIBE NOW LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Copyright © Las Vegas Review-Journal, 1997 - 2007
Stephens Media, LLC Privacy Statement