

## Appeal for Anti-Lottery Legislation

<https://history.house.gov/HouseRecord/Detail/25769819740>

To the House Committee on Post-Offices and Post-roads

U.S. Congress

Gentlemen:—

In the multiplicity of business before you at all times, little can be expected, unless special attention is called to the importance of that which is of vastly more interest to our whole Country than much of the present just at this time.

The Louisiana State Lottery Co. are canvassing our whole Country to know where and how they can secure a renewal of their Charter for twenty five years. During the last session of our legislature the conduct of this Company in open day-light would have just to shame a professional highway man and with all their infamy they claim they will be successful; Why is our Congress silent on this subject?

If you gentlemen could see the homes wrecked in our City—say naught of others throughout our Country you would hasten to forever silence their clamor for [[press?]]. An aged couple over [[thru?]] [[serve?]] and [[?]] with an only son whose ambition is to make their last days their best days, and while in a responsible [[place?]], conceives the idea that chance will better his condition, he takes of his employers money, stakes it and loses time and again and finally thousands have been squandered, it can be hid no longer, he is discharged and becomes an outcast and to keep him from the cell all is given up by his parents, and now those who were comfortable are paupers with a wayward child no one knows where.

The laborer for years toils and by [[shirt?]] saves enough to by a home, the time comes and he goes to his beloved wife and says now we will have a home of our own, the wife goes into hysterics for she had deposited all in the Lottery, a ruined home. I could enumerate many personally known but of what avail. Our press is coming to our rescue for they know not how soon the same enemy may appear in their own [[?]].

Gentlemen: If you could only see the Lottery as a long suffering Christian people sees and feels it your first duty would be in bringing forward some bill that would quit forever the gang of vampires now fastened on us

Help oh Help as the Lord our God did help by closing the [[lips?]] of one the alltogether one needful to carry the bill over the Governors veto. Do not trifle with the serpent ere he turns upon you and sends the poison coursing through your veins. In the name of mothers fathers, wives, children and humanity let me beg and plede to a successful end that some action be taken this session.

Your humble servant

William L James

New Orleans {Louisiana}

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