Tribal Leader's '80s Garage Casino Paved Way for Native American Casino Industry

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Fred Dakota expanded Native Americans' authority to operate and regulate their own businesses when he opened a casino in a two-car garage on a Michigan reservation in 1983.

His low-budget, short-lived operation challenged a state ban on casinos that had effectively kept casinos off tribal property. Mr. Dakota said the state law couldn't be applied to casinos on reservations owned by Native Americans.

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