

# Web gambling crisis

Shares in leading online gambling companies have crashed after the U.S. Congress passed legislation prohibiting the use of credit cards, cheques and electronic fund transfers to settle internet wagers



▶ In 2005, web gambling generated 12% of gambling industry's global annual turnover of \$100 billion

▶ Half of online gambling revenue – \$6 billion – came from U.S.

▶ Some eight million people in U.S. gambled online in 2005 – more than one-third of world total

▶ There are about 2,300 internet gambling sites. **888 Holdings**, one of the biggest firms, gets 50% of its revenue from U.S. **PartyGaming** and **Sportingbet** generate 78% and 62% respectively of revenue from U.S.

▶ If President Bush signs bill, only online casinos will be affected. Local online betting on horseracing, fantasy leagues and lotteries are excluded