

item, than we spent on usury if that tells you anything. Let me explain a little bit about what we did do. There is a private cause of action still for fraud and the other things, misrepresentation and so on and so forth.... Consumer Protection Act. Now, the problem is if you want to go with strictly a private cause of action, basically then you are saying, State Insurance Department, you are out of the field. What we are doing is we are putting this whole system into the courtroom system. Mrs. Jones who is 83 years old bought five policies and got rooked bad. She now has a right to go hire an attorney, go to court and whip that insurance company. I believe that could be an additional right. For me to get that passed in this legislation was tantamount to impossible. I did the next best thing...maintained all the existing private causes of action, fraud, misrepresentation and so on and so forth, and then took the approach, look, when you are dealing with three or four hundred dollars, five hundred or a thousand dollars, first of all the old person isn't going to go to the attorney. Second, they aren't going to want to go into court. Third, it just hasn't worked with the existing private causes of action, and finally, why do we even say we have a State Insurance Department? Why do we hold ourselves out as protecting the public if, by golly, we aren't going to do it? Put the burden on them heavy. Give them the tools. Give them the direction. Put the factor of loss ratios in. They can't ask for any more. If they don't perform in the next six...eight months, if the bandits aren't gone, then we have failed. But, first of all, go this approach rather than abandoning the whole system and going to the courtroom system on this. We have said the Insurance Department is there to protect the public. Let's really put the burden on them and give them the tools. Go at it that way.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, let me ask you one more question, Senator DeCamp. You really do want to rely on the Insurance Department essentially to enforce this act....

SENATOR DeCAMP: That's true.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I can appreciate that point of view....

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have fifteen seconds.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Political considerations are important. How many hearings, if you know, have been conducted at this time under the provisions of 44-1529 by the Commissioner of Insurance, that is on show cause hearings for unfair and deceptive trade practices?