

legitimate problem, some argument, some question. . . But if, in fact, there are cases out there, and I've known of one or two, where an insurance company deliberately drug its feet, we do have penalties in the statutes right now to take care of this kind of a situation. Check 44-1529 and that you'll find an insurance company that does not operate according to the book in fair settlement of claims, equitable settlement of claims, speedy settlement of claims, the Department of Insurance can fine that insurance company up to an aggregate of \$50,000 right now. The department can suspend a license. The department can revoke a license. Now that's a pretty heavy hammer to hold over the head of an insurance company. Much to do has been said both last year and this year about the insurance companies and their failures to come to terms, but I would remind the body that there are many, many claims filed that do not even involve insurance.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR BARRETT: There are a lot of people find themselves in court without insurance. How about those people in court which they are arguing about claims which are far in excess of the limits of liability of their individual policies? There are a lot of those out there. It doesn't always involve insurance. If the lawyers for the plaintiffs are so concerned about the justice of interest, I suggest that the best solution for them is to bring their cases to trial faster. You know why? Because they are entitled to postjudgment interest right now. I think this is a prime case of special legislation, Mr. President, and in conclusion I would suggest to you that it contradicts the principle that it is wrong for a person to collect interest on money that he doesn't have or perhaps isn't entitled to. I urge the body to kill the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp and then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like to address most of the issues raised by Senator Beyer and by Senator Barrett and I will begin with the last statement made by Senator Barrett. Senator Barrett said this is special legislation. On that point he is totally correct. The only people this legislation will apply to are a special class called victims. Only somebody who was injured, who was damaged and where somebody else wrongfully did it and where that decision was finally reached, finally determined by a court