

Committee of which they are both members. They were secondly presented on General File, and on...I'm sorry, only on General File. There really is nothing new in the arguments themselves. I think this body, in its wisdom, recognizes the need to increase the jurisdictional limits of the Small Claims Court from five hundred dollars to a thousand dollars, not only to take care of Senator Beutler's aunt, but in addition to take care of the hundreds and thousands of other Nebraskans whose claims for fender bender accidents, for property wrongfully taken, and the like, now cost more than five hundred dollars simply because inflation has increased the value of those claims. I want to...I do want to touch on a couple of matters. I want to touch on the insurance matter. Senator Chambers' source is Chief Justice Norman Krivosha at a luncheon at which both Senator Chambers and I attended. The Chief Justice mentioned that he understood that there were some insurance companies at this juncture who have decided that with questionable claims of two hundred dollars or less, they're just not going to pay them, and require persons to go to the Small Claims Court. Now I happen to think that's a bad practice on the part of the insurance company, and so does this Legislature, because this Legislature already has, as a matter of law, that that is a deceptive trade practice for an insurance company not to pay a good claim, and our Chief Justice and our Senator Chambers and myself ought to get that information together and take it to our Insurance Commissioner and he ought to deal with those insurance companies, and that's the way that problem is resolved, and we don't resolve that problem simply by continuing to limit jurisdictional amount in the Small Claims Court at five hundred dollars a claim or less. Secondly, Senator Stoney has brought up Senator...or Judge Ryan's statement that over the last five years the amount of judgments in the Small Claims Court have only increased from, say two hundred seventeen dollars per judgment to like two hundred and twenty-seven dollars per judgment, or some other very minute figure. Well, of course, the amount of judgments are not going to increase dramatically, because the jurisdictional limit, five hundred dollars, has remained the constant, and so long as that's the constant, the number of judgments that can be taken in that court are not going to increase significantly. Now I think that Judge Ryan will find that if we raise the jurisdictional limit from five hundred dollars to a thousand dollars, that two hundred and seventeen dollars per judgment will increase, because we have enlarged the threshold. We have allowed more people to come before the court. I ask you to reject Senator Chambers' motion, and to approve this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING