

well heeled, financially secure special interests, who can get the Legislature to ramrod bills, and programs, over the floor...over the poor. I noticed when we had a bill, Senator Johnson, that was going to try to repeal the guest statute, some committee members were swayed very strongly against the bill, because the insurance companies came in and said it might raise the rates a few dollars per year. Yet, when we talk about something that can destroy a person's economic stability forever, agreements are made that will benefit the loan companies to make them a subsidized bloodsucker of the poor, and like Senator Fowler said, it's been a sleepy morning here because the dirty work has been done. We are performing a postmortem here this morning. The carcass is before us, and Senator Kremer, to paraphrase Job, where the carcass is there will the buzzards be gathered together. I have called these kind of loan bills Jaws Junior, referring to the shark with the voracious appetite, which would consume anything that came within range. I have called these scoundrels who operate the loan companies loan sharks, which I believe they are. I received a letter the other day, and I wish some of you would get the reputation of being concerned about people, so you could get some of these letters and see there are real people out there who are genuinely harmed by the practices of the loan companies. More is involved here than merely the term of a loan, the amount of a loan, or even the interest rate, or the rule of seventy-eights. I have a letter where a lady tells me about AFCO, who took over some accounts when Gambles closed. She has borrowed off and on from AFCO for nineteen years. They took a security interest and all of her household goods, and then they told her that she missed some payments, so they want her to come in and combine her AFCO loan, combine that with what she had owed Gambles, which they took over when they got those accounts, and add in a loan, which her daughter, who is 22 years old, has with AFCO. Now the mother did not cosign for the daughter's loan. The daughter did not cosign for the mother's loan, but AFCO threatened this woman and told her, if you don't come in here and combine these loans, we're coming out and taking everything you have in your house. Now that is unconscionable. It is immoral. It is reprehensible, and cowards who would do such a thing to a widow woman, or anybody who is in a weak position ought to be taken out and horsewhipped, but that will not be done, because the Legislature is interested in subsidizing these loan companies who utilize these practices. If you can look at it in a shallow, superficial fashion, if you can make it... if you can kind of clean it up and not talk about the damaging things they do to people, then we can talk in the dry terms that put people to sleep. Sixty months versus a hundred and twenty months...Senator Fowler is certainly right when he says that that