

article was published in the Falls City Journal, February 2nd of this year. And they took it from the Sabetha Herald. "Attorney General Robert T. Stephan and his office have entered into a consent judgment with a company who operates a campground resort, called Sycamore Springs near Sabetha. In the consent judgment, filed in Shawnee County District Court, Thousand Adventures, Inc. of Blair, Nebraska, has agreed to resolve consumer complaints received by the Attorney General's Office and to stop misrepresenting certain aspects of its membership contracts to consumers. Attorney General Stephan said he received 23 complaints from consumers across the state who were not allowed to resell their contracts with the company, as promised, or who said the company made misrepresentations to them during its solicitation. Stephan said, Thousand Adventures, Inc. violates the Kansas Consumer Protection Act by telling consumers it would resell contracts or buy back memberships without disclosing certain conditions and limitations." And it goes on to mention some of the specific things that are done in promising or offering gifts which were not as represented. But, in response to something Senator Schmit said, I have to make a few comments. In Iowa I heard statements from their Attorney General, and others who are concerned about consumers, telling especially the elderly to beware of those who are going to flood the area with contracts to do repairs on their roofs and other damage that they suffered as a result of this group of storms that recently struck Iowa. They said what these rascals will do is get these elderly people to pay, up front, then disappear. We all know that the elderly are vulnerable, we know that they are easy prey. For us to disregard the reality that we know exists is not righteous. If Senator Schmit has a business operation in his district, I can understand him, if he has no reason to think to the contrary, to feel that they're legitimate and on the up-and-up. But, if they are a part of an operation which is known universally for engaging in fraud and using misrepresentation and high pressure tactics to befuddle, then exploit the elderly, we have an obligation, as a legislative body, to step in and provide protection for those people. And I would tell Senator Schmit this, if we're going to expect elderly people with no training in contracts to understand contracts and be able to look behind the representations of companies and hold these elderly people responsible, then why do we have laws to protect banks against fraud? Shouldn't banks, with all their high-powered lawyers, with all their trained people be able to look out for their interests and not be defrauded? But I haven't heard Senator