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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You may. I'm just trying to learn what your point of view is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. If the amount is high enough and neither one can afford a lawyer, they may arrive at some kind of a compromise. But whether they do or not, I'm looking at the system the way it was designed to operate, and the fact that while I've been in this Legislature the collection industry has come down here time after time to try to raise the amount so they could use the small claims court as an arm of their collection industry. And even though the one who goes into court is not to have a lawyer, those collection agencies, the person they send in, has had the benefit of a lawyer. But when you've got a judge there, the judge is going to be able to sift and sort through this and look at which one has the legitimate right to prevail. In district court, the judge is not an advocate; the judge is just sitting there something like a traffic director, more or less. And if you get into district court, you don't know when to object. You don't know what evidence can be gotten in. You think it's enough to say, Your Honor, I'm right, I won this judgment. And, well, that's not the way the proceedings are going to be handled in district court. It's entirely different from small claims court, where it is kind of an informal setting and was designed to be. And that's why you will always find somebody trying to collect from a poor person, coming here to say raise the jurisdictional amount. Those who would use the court, those who represent people who have small claims legitimately, are not the ones coming in and asking the Judiciary Committee to raise the amount, and if the Supreme Court is required to raise the amount when they make an adjustment following the Consumer Price Index, it's clear that the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...intent is to keep it dealing with small claims, and that's about the best answer that I can give.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Loudon.