

Legislators Get Earful of Facts On Money Shark

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman

Installment credit may be an important lifeline to retail trade, but to many innocent buyers caught by unscrupulous finance sharks, it's more like the hangman's noose. Some really startling evidence about the fringe of rackets which has grown up in the shadow of ethical installment selling was presented to a subcommittee of the Assembly committee on finance and insurance at two recent public hearings.

One witness told of being charged \$119 in finance fees on a \$200 auto repair bill. When he complained, he was told that his contract had been sold to an investment company, and he would have to make the "regular payments." He paid the bill in two weeks, but still was obliged to pay a \$40 surcharge.

ANOTHER REPORTED paying \$60 in installments for a \$22.50 toaster. A third signed a contract for \$200, but instead of 36 payments which she expected, found that 60 were demanded, bringing the cost of her loan to \$1320, more than twice the legal maximum interest rate set by the usury provisions of our state Constitution. Story after story like these were told the committee, most of them based on contracts resold to "investment companies," contracts signed in blank, or terms not learned until "payment books" were received, sometimes weeks after the particular transactions.

You may well ask, as did subcommittee members, why such gouging is permitted, in view of the constitutional and statutory prohibitions against usury. The answer is simple, the State Supreme Court has ruled that "time price charges" are not interest, so racketeering merchants and finance companies conceal their holdups under all sorts of names—carrying charges, service charges, investigation, bookkeeping and insurance charges. In many cases these phony "charges," if figured as regular interest, would make the rate more than 100 per cent of the value of the merchandise or service.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY and police spokesmen reported that many complaints of such gouging are caused by unscrupulous garages and finance companies which work together. The subcommittee was informed that less than 2 per cent of garages are responsible for almost all the complaints.

Reputable retail stores were also given a clean bill of health by these witnesses. In Los Angeles, for instance, it was reported that only five complaints had been brought against regular stores in the last 25 years, and most of these were promptly settled.

REPRESENTATIVES of retailers expressed their growing concern over the situation, and expressed their willingness to support legislation to correct the evils. Legislation to spell out regulations on both merchants and lending institutions was recommended to the subcommittee. It was suggested that the law require customers to be notified when their contracts are sold; that limits be put on charges in terms of effective interest rates; that all contracts be put completely in writing before the customer is asked to sign, and that penalty charges against customers who pay in full before the end of the period be prohibited.

Two things seemed certain when the hearings were recessed. Legislation to prohibit installment sale gouging will be passed at the 1939 session. And ethical merchants and financing institutions will be strong supporters of a sound law on the matter.

CLUB TO MEET
Members of the South Bay Cactus and Succulent Club will meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Lynde Community Center, 147th St. and Burling Ave.

Thrifty COUPON BOOK

SOUTH BAY — 2039 Hawthorne at Redondo Beach Blvd.
REDONDO — 411 North Pacific Coast Highway
GARDENA — 1208 Redondo Beach Blvd.
HAWTHORNE — 433 S. Hawthorne Blvd. at 132nd St.
INGLEWOOD — 11340 Crenshaw Blvd.

INVEST A DIME
BUY A DISCOUNT
COUPON BOOK
AT THRIFTY AND
Save MORE THAN \$30.00

FREE! 7 Nationally Advertised Items
OVER \$1.70 IN ACTUAL CASH VALUE!

- THESE ARE THE FREE ITEMS
- Scotchbush Aniseed Tobacco
 - 42 Laminated Cream Paper
 - Razor Shave or Pre-Electric Shave Lotion
 - Glycerine
 - Soaplets "On the Wind"
 - Perfume
 - Length Free Facial Lotion or AR Over Body Lotion
 - Soap-Sun Tablets

You can save more than \$30.00 by clipping all the coupons in this book! And you get over \$1.70 in free nationally advertised items.

FOUNTAIN/GRILL SPECIAL

FISH & CHIPS

Fresh of Icelandic cod, cooked to us frozen to preserve all their fatness; deep-fried to golden tenderness just the way you like; served with crisp shoestring potatoes and delicious, fresh coffee slaw, hot water and butter.

REG. \$1.00
65¢

HERE'S PROOF! SELLERS FOR LESS

REG. \$2.98
30x50" COTTON LOOP
SCULPTURED
RUGS

Decorator colors in smart, low sculptured design. Thick piled, stain-resistant backs.

\$1.98

HERE'S PROOF! SELLERS FOR LESS

SAME FIRST QUALITY SOLD ELSEWHERE FOR \$1.39 AND UP!

CHILDREN'S CANVAS OXFORDS

With Arch-Cushion Soles.

All purpose outfits with sturdy duck uppers, plain toe, rugged rubber heels. Sizes 5 to 12, 1 and 2. Red or blue.

98¢

HERE'S PROOF! SELLERS FOR LESS

\$4.50 VALUE!

RONSON

WindLite Lighters

Smart, modern design. Lights a tiny flame. Lifetime work with large fuel tank. Styled for men & women.

\$1.99

Research

Research in the field of medicine has produced the most powerful and effective of all the drugs ever known. It is the result of the combined efforts of the greatest minds of our time. It is the result of the combined efforts of the greatest minds of our time. It is the result of the combined efforts of the greatest minds of our time.

BEING YOUR STATE MEDICAL CARE PRESCRIPTIONS TO THRIFTY'S PRESCRIPTION DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER!
BUY ONE... GET ONE FREE!
Buy \$9.95—31 Day Supply
BOROVIM Health Food Supplement with Concentrated Alfalfa, Parsley and Watercress

Borovim supplies all of the essential vitamins and minerals for which the nutritional need has been established plus the added natural nutrition of scientifically concentrated alfalfa, watercress and parsley.

REG. \$19.95
2 for \$9.95

BOROVIM 100 CAPSULES
VITAMIN A
25,000 Unit
As aid to a healthy complexion

BOROVIM 100 CAPSULES
B-COMPLEX
Who Folic Acid and B-12
Helps maintain a healthy nervous system

77¢

MEDICAL & DRUG U.S.P. TABLETS
100 ASPIRIN 9¢

DIAMOND PILL POUCH
RUBBING ALCOHOL 9¢

98c SIZE
BOAKS PILLS 51¢

NYLON 100 YDS.
89c DENTAL FLOSS 49¢

PRICES GOOD THRU SAT. PLUS REG. TAX. We reserve right to limit quantities.

JOHNSTON TANGO COOKIES
PINEAPPLE PUFF
DEVIL'S FOOD
FULL POUND **39¢**

REG. \$1.98
MEN'S MASSIVE FRAME SUN GLASSES

Modern, heavy frames, 3 and 4 barrel plastic hinges. Quality 4-barrel lenses.

98¢

KLEENRITE Tooth Paste

Brightens your teeth... and your smile! Helps retard decay.

2 for 51¢

Lady Catcher

55c 4-Purpose Fluid
CREAM MAKE-UP

For a prettier complexion... softer, clearer, smoother.

29¢

MARGAL—BAG OF 30 WAXED
10c SANDWICH BAGS... 6¢

JOHNSTON'S
98c GLO-COAT WAX... 69¢

SURGEONS—SLIGHT IRREGULARS
69c RUBBER GLOVES... 29¢

\$8.95 VALUE!
DECORATOR BIRD CAGE

A beauty of metal wire construction. Complete with hanging branch, red perch, seed tray, water cup, plastic spout for child decorative toy.

\$5.99

\$1.59 VALUE!
CHILDREN'S CORDUROY OVERALLS

Pre-washed, washable corduroy in red, blue, charcoal, maroon. Fall color.

\$1.19

\$1.98 VALUE!
52x52" Printed Cotton TABLE CLOTHS

All Fine Quality

Choice of lovely colors, patterns in popular size cloth. Fine quality cotton. Washable.

\$1.59
2 for \$3.00

\$7.95 Value!
Wicker FAMILY SIZE CLOTHES HAMPER

With Padded Top
Smart Decorator Colors
Large 10x19x26 size.
Well made for long life.
Good ventilation. Beautifully padded top in choice of colors.

\$4.44

\$1.49 VALUE!
INFANTS' CORDUROY CRAWLERS

Pre-washed, washable, corduroy in blue, pink, red, white.

SNAP-CROUCH
Size 1, 2, 3

99¢

\$1.78 VALUE!
Women's Genuine Leather MOCCASINS

With Colorful Beaded Trim

All leather moccasins with sponge insole wonderfully comfortable. Beaded trim. Sizes 5 to 9

98¢

LIQUOR VALUES

4 YEAR OLD
OLD GIBBALTAR
100 Proof Bottled in Bond
Straight BOURBON
7th Edition
\$3.89

7 YEAR OLD
WELLINGTON
Straight BOURBON
7th Edition
\$3.39

IMPORTED
Duncan Sinclair
Scotch Whisky
7th Edition
\$4.19

OLD MINER
45 PROOF
DRY GIN
7th Edition
\$2.98

HARKOFF
QUALITY
VODKA
7th Edition
\$2.98

THRIFTY BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIALS

REG. \$2.29
SCHOOL LUNCH KIT

With 10 Oz. Vacuum Bottle
Strong metal box. Vacuum bottle keeps liquids hot or cold for hours.

\$1.79

REG. \$1.98
40-HOUR ALARM CLOCK

Accurate time keeper... dependable alarm. Smart modern styling. Easy to read dial.

\$1.69

\$15.00 Value!
WEBSTER
Mass. Secondary
DICTIONARY

1938 Edition. 1750 large type entries. Over 1300 pages. 1000 illustrations. 14 pages of colorful maps. 16-page full color illustrated section on Mass. Geography of Spelling. Tabulated all letter endings.

\$5.95

1 RING
CANVAS BINDER 69¢

2 RING
ZIPPER BINDER \$1.98

STUDENTS'
SCRAP BOOKS 15¢

BOX OF 2
CRAYOLAS 15¢

1-8"
PENCIL BOX 24¢

BOX OF 16
CRAYOLAS 25¢

WATER COLORS 25¢

STUDENTS'
Protractor Ruler 10¢

RAYON TRICOY
Children's PANTIES 29¢

MISSES
HELANCA SOCKS 49¢

BOY'S FRUIT-OF-THE-LOOM
STRETCH SOCKS 39¢

REG. \$1.98
METAL PORT-A-FILE

With Lock and Key

Holds 200 documents. A to Z dividers, folders.

\$1.69

9 INCH DIAMETER
WORLD REFERENCE GLOBE

Beautifully printed multi-color globe with easy-to-read place names. Sturdy base. Guaranteed accuracy.

\$1.98

\$7.95 VALUE!
TYPING & UTILITY TABLE

With two drop leaves

All metal sturdy construction. Right angled drop leaves. One small hole.

\$5.99

HERE'S PROOF! SELLERS FOR LESS

\$4.50 VALUE!

RONSON

WindLite Lighters

Smart, modern design. Lights a tiny flame. Lifetime work with large fuel tank. Styled for men & women.

\$1.99

WESTCLOX ALARM CLOCKS

BABY BEN

Newest breakable case-shaped alarm. Comes with 100% full size metal case.

\$2.95

BIG BEN

American high-class alarm clock in high-fashion styling. 100% metal case.

\$7.95

SARAKA For Daily Regularity

Prescribed by physicians for fifteen years for gentle, complete relief of constipation, hemorrhoids, flatulence, etc. No laxative stimulation.

NO LAXATIVE STIMULATION

50c 100 Tablets
\$1.49—50 Tablets
\$2.49—100 Tablets—worth over \$1.50

For the first time you get the benefits of SARAKA in a single tablet.

New toothpaste

WITH METHYLDIOPHENE

Controls acid in oral cavity and decay bacteria.

Large Size
37¢

Small Size
27¢

NEEVEL LUGGAGE

With self-repairing case

• **TRAIN CASE**
24" x 16" x 10" Long, 7 1/2" High
Metal Case
\$2.98

• **VANITY CASE**
14" x 10" x 11" Long, 10" High
Metal Case
\$2.98

• **LITTLE SHEPHERD POGO STICK**

Light, Compact, portable, fun.

\$2.98

Loose Loose Teeth

Relieved and tightened at once. No wiggling. Improved Dental hygiene. No pain. No loss of enamel and teeth. Guaranteed. Try it. It's the only thing that works. No wiggling. No pain. No loss of enamel and teeth. Guaranteed. Try it. It's the only thing that works.

\$1.00

DARK EYES

Permanent Darkener

FOR LASHES AND BROWS

For the color it makes possible. Application easy. Lasts 4 to 5 weeks. No pain and smart proof.

\$1.79

ALCOA ALUMINUM FOIL

At Thrifty Low Prices!

LUSTRE CREME LANGLIN BLESSING SHAMPOO

30¢

Gainsborough

Elastic Edge Nylon

HAIR NETS

Web's best, greatest, most beautiful hair net that ever appeared on your hair. Choice of natural colors.

10¢