others. I want to make an exception to that degree. But truth is a cleansing and purifying force.

Mr. GONZALEZ. In view of that, you really feel that conditions being what they are and all, that it is not desirable to have a fixed, regulated amount in the legislation?

Mr. DOUGLAS. As I said, my own preference is the other way, because I think that furnished the facts you can depend upon consumers to protect themselves, providing you have laws against fraud, and as I say, you only have to have a minority of alert buyers or borrowers to police the industry. You have got a self-correcting system. Truth, if I may use a big word, has a therapeutic value. It heals. I have never been psychoanalyzed and I do not know the secrets of so-called psychiatry, but as I read psychiatry the essential point is that people should not be afraid of the truth. If you are afraid of the truth you are likely to get a split personality or you get complexes or whatnot. But a full statement of the truth is healing. Sometimes it is hard but it helps and it is a corrective of future action. I think it has been stated—and that New York furniture dealer, who, by the way, is a very nice man personally, if he could have been compelled to state that his interest rate was 149 percent, that poor woman up in Harlem never would have been charged it. He couldn't bear to face his friends with an interest rate like that. And I think one great advantage of this legislation is that it will improve the morals of American business, which many businessmen regard as more important than money.

Mr. GONZALEZ. I see you believe in the scriptural statement which is engraved at the University of Texas above the entrance: "You shall knoweth the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Mr. DOUGLAS. That is right.

Mr. GONZALEZ. To me it is very encouraging because it shows that you have an essential and residual faith in the goodness of American society essentially. Many of our citizens have lost that faith and there are some who say, well, as in the case of the furniture dealer perhaps the brutal truth of advertising would prevent his charging 149 percent but would not he find some other stratagem to do the same thing. This is the same type of thinking that says this legislation would be useless anyway. We have a lot of laws but nobody seems really to be respecting them so one more will not make any difference. There will be all kinds of stratagems and their escape clauses that will enable the person who wants to charge an unconscionable amount to do it.

But I agree with you, I think that by far and large this is the exception, not the rule, and that truth in lending would indeed go a long way in resolving some of the lower and other problems that confront us.

I want to thank you again for being present here, Senator.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Thank you, Congressman, very much.

I do not know if there is any response needed to that excellent statement. I say that the laws against murder do not prevent all murders but they do reduce the number of murders. You have two enforcement weapons in your bill. In the first place you have this double penalty for knowing violations and those suits can be brought by those who have been aggrieved and there can be associations of consumers to take up their causes for them and fight these cases so there is a double penalty. And this can be a stimulus to young lawyers to take up the