

1 look at the cases, and there are close to maybe a couple
2 of hundred thousand cases a year in Baltimore City, I would
3 say seventy-five per cent of them are \$500 or less. Of
4 course, at that time the jurisdiction was \$1000 and now it
5 is 2500, but I think the large bulk of the cases are below
6 \$500. Particularly in the lower Courts, you have furniture
7 salesmen and installment salesmen predominately in the lower
8 Courts. These are the type cases you get. As to the pure
9 contract cases, and so forth, you very rarely get those.

10 If this were 500, I think there might be an
11 argument that the legislature can virtually remove the
12 right of jury trial by raising or lowering the jurisdiction
13 as it sees fit, but I think perhaps it could prevail, if it
14 is reasonable. I don't know, you could probably make an
15 argument against it, but if it is at all possible to have
16 such a thing, I think it would be very helpful, particularly
17 to those lower Courts who are today being used for discovery,
18 more or less as a discovery procedure by both parties and
19 they really burden the Court with a case which is really
20 not being decided, but being prepared for some future pro-
21 ceeding.