

Insurance schemes told

EXPRESS CAPITOL BUREAU

AUSTIN—So-called "lapse lists" and partly blank application forms are two methods unscrupulous insurance agents are using to bilk elderly Texans, a state investigator said Tuesday.

Hector De Leon, head of a special state board of insurance task force, said the fraud schemes are used most frequently in rural areas. Victims are usually in their 70s and 80s, he said.

De Leon said the shady practices are probably occurring in many parts of the state. He has names of over 300 victims.

Special prober

His remarks came after Insurance Board Chairman Joe Christie said he is assigning a special investigator to help DeWitt County Dist. Atty. Wiley Cheatham investigate recently discovered insurance fraud cases.

Cheatham began uncovering shady schemes last summer and brought insurance board officials into the action beginning in September.

Tuesday's assignment of prober Howard McRae marks a continued high level of cooperation between Cheatham and the state as well as determination to nail "flim-flammers," Christie said in a press conference.



HECTOR DE LEON
... state investigator