Both sides want policy on assisted suicide

They're still worlds apart philo-sophically not the localled "Doctor Death" and the Usek and County pro-secutor agree in on, thing Both want explicts to address the issue of physician assisted sulcide as Michigan charts a lourse on dealing with it

Michigan charts a nowas with it Dr. Jack. Revorkian, the retired Hoyal Oak pathologist, and Prosecutor. Hithard. Thompson, this week botto carter for an objective analysis of physician assisted suicide.

But that a not fail use their agree-

But there are no non-negative active and contributed with the contributed and the contributed assisted succides. Thompson wants knowledgeable physicians and lawyers to examine the basee as the basis for the state legislature to make it there).

the basis for the state legislature to make it flegal. Kevorkian called to: a blue ribbon commission to establish appropri-ate gordernes to regulate the right of people to decide their own destin-

We must grasp this opportunity to exolec these issues or risk shpp-ing egan into the dark age of Igno-rance into intolerance."

KEVORKAN MADE that request through a statement released Monday at a press conference called by

his lawyer, Geoffrey N. Fieger, in Southield.

At the same conference, Fieger released video tapes of Sherry Million and Marjorie Wants, accompanied by Keworkian and/or friends and relatives. The tapes make it abundantly clear that both women were knowledgeable and aware... and both wanted to die.

The tape clearly support Keworkian's contention that both women, which contention that both women, while mit terminally ill, were in axin and war led to end their lives. They accomplished that end or rened abin in a scenic settling in Sala A-instant Recreation Area in Oaklaine Township on Oct. 23. Wants, S. which lived near Benton Harbor, administered a lethal dose of potassium chloride to herself, while Millers, 43, of Roseville, asphyxiated herself with earbor monostic.

Both women sought — and obtained advice from Keworkian, who weeked off a nation-wide debate on physician assisted suided in June, 1990 by advising Janet Addins, 54, on Iskin, lier own life with the machine he butt. The deaths of Miller and want has renewed that debate.

"IS fHIS the beginning of an as-sembly line?" Prosecutor Thompson asked Monday in a separate press conference, referring to the 50 other people Kevorkian claims have con-

'We must grasp this opportunity to resolve these issues or risk slipping again into the dark age of ignorance and intolerance.'

. — Dr. Kevorkian assisted suicide advocate

tacted him seeking information on assisted suicide.

assisted suicide.

"Are we to promote assisted suicide as an acceptable option for depressed teenagers?" he asked.

Obviously not, he said. But the legislature must act, by outlawing assisted suicide.

sisted suicide.

The prosecutor asked the legislature to make assisted suicide illegal
in Michigan once before. That was
last February, shortly after a distirct judge in Carkston dismissed
first degree murder charges against
take are inte with his machine.

'is this the beginning of an assembly line? Are we to promote assisted suicide as an acceptable option for depressed teenagers?"

Prosecutor Thompson opposes assisted sulcide

Thompson said he wouldn't appeal he judge's dismissal, although he till believed Kevorkian was guilty

But the proper forum for addressing assisted suicide was the legislature, he said. Let the people's elected representatives enact the appropriate laws.

And the appropriate laws, in Thompson's view, was to make as-sisted suicide illegal.

ALTHOUGH LEGISLATION to outlaw assisted suicide was intro-duced by State Sen. Frederick Dill

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office.

That does not rule out the possibility of criminal charges against Kevorkian aterming from the deaths of Miller and Wantz week, Thompson said Monday, Neither inactivity by the legislature nor the dismissal of murder charges by a district judge will keep him from the course of action he considers appropriate, the prosecutor said.

Neither will "taunts or harangues from any lawyer," Thompson said,

referring to accusations, repeated by Kevorkian's attorney Monday, that the prosecutor was "persecuting" his

client. "He (Figer) is conducting this, ilke a threwing circus," the prosecutor said. "Every day he has a press conference to unveil something new. I think this matter has to be resolved by medical and legal experts, not in the media."

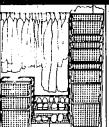
As for his next step, Thompson said he would likely wait for the results of autopsy reports and toxicology examinations.
"That will take four to six weeks. Until then, all my options are open."



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