

# Sees Room For Reform In Injury Settlements

Plenty of room for reform exists in automobile injury reparations, Prof. Alfred T. Conrad of the University of Michigan Law School said in a recent speech.

Focusing his attention first on the problems of injury victims, Prof. Conrad said that "their greatest need is for medical and rehabilitation treatment without policy limits," similar to that granted through workmen's compensation.

Conrad noted that a proposed plan developed by two professors from Harvard and the University of Illinois partially solves this problem in that it assures victims that medical expenses will be paid, up to about \$10,000.

"But this Keeton-O'Connell plan," he added, "would not solve the other part of the problem—the fact that every penny of medical benefits is subtractible from the maximum cash benefits."

# N'Ville Man Gets Award

Louis Schomberger, a punper at the Northville Production field of Consumers Power Company received the President's Medal from the National Safety Council and the NSC's certificate for saving the life of Charles Fox, 7800 W. Six Mile Road, Northville on Dec. 28, 1966.

The presentations were made by Consumers Vice President John Simpson, of Jackson, as the highspot of a luncheon at the Thunderbird Inn.

Schomberger was credited with saving Fox' life through the successful use of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and closed-chest cardiac massage.

Receiving a certificate at the same time was Henry Clark, 10650 W. Seven Mile Road, Northville, where Fox was stricken.



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL medal and certificate are presented to Louis Schomberger, Consumer Power worker from Northville, by Vice President John Simpson, of Jackson. Schomberger was credited with saving the life of Charles Fox (second from right) during a heart attack. Henry Clark (right), of Northville, also received a certificate for assistance in the resuscitation.

**Schoolcraft Presents**

Schoolcraft College's Winter Film Series will present, "Shoot the Piano Player," in the Forum on Friday, March 8. Showings are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. There is no admission charge.

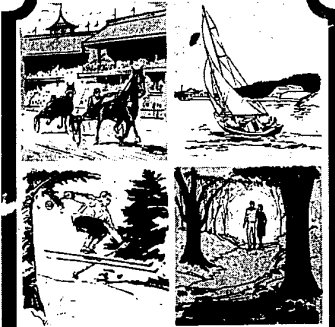
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THE SECOND GREATEST need of injury victims "is pensions for the permanently and totally disabled, and for the survivors of fatally victims not already covered by Social Security."

The only practical way to supply these pensions, he said, is "a slight extension of the coverage of survivors' and disability insurance under the Social Security system."

Coverage of the loss of earnings caused by an accident poses another problem, Conrad recommended the \$10,000 basic protection coverage included in the Keeton-O'Connell plan, but noted that even \$10,000 would not supplement wage loss for long, since medical and legal expenses would also have to be subtracted from that sum.

Turning to the problems of the premium payer, Conrad said the first need is "to abolish the collateral benefits rule" under which the injured might collect duplicate benefits through the "various regimes of loss reparations."

THE LAWYERS tell the jury about doctor bills and disfigurement, he noted, "without ever mentioning the fact that many needs have already been met and paid for. So they are paid for all over again."

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## One Driver In 20 Beats Suspension

LANSING—Only one driver in 20 who has refused to take a sobriety test in connection with Michigan's implied consent law has escaped suspension of his driving privilege, it was disclosed by Secretary of State James M. Hare.

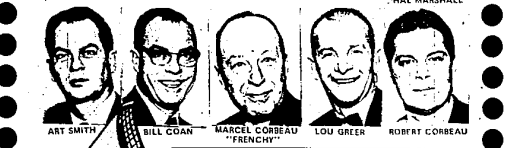
As of February 2, three months after the program got underway, 403 Michigan drivers have been given mandatory 90-day suspensions for refusal to take sobriety tests when they were arrested, Hare noted.

"Of this total, 295 drivers were suspended through driver improvement action, and 108 were suspended after their appeals were denied by License Appeal Boards," Hare stated.

"In only 20 cases were appeals granted.

"Neither actions taken by our department internally in suspensions nor by license appeal boards determine the guilt or innocence of these persons," Hare said, "Adjudication of the cases is up to the courts."

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