

Seek Uniform Codes For Transplant Donors

While a growing number of heart transplants capture headlines, much confusion exists in laws governing anatomical gifts, a University of Michigan law professor says.

The legal problems in using the human body or its parts for medical purposes are not new, but heart transplantation has served as a dramatic reminder, Prof. William J. Pierce notes.

It seems certain, however, that anatomical gifts will increase in number and importance.

WITH THIS in mind, Pierce reports, the legal profession has recently taken a major step toward eliminating confusion and giving uniformity to statutory provisions on gifts of all or portions of a human body.

A uniform anatomical gift code was completed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, of which Prof. Pierce is president. The code, approved by the

American Bar Association, now awaits endorsement from the American Medical Association.

The proposed code, Pierce notes, is a "comprehensive" treatment of the legal problem. It answers these questions, among others: By whom may a gift of parts of the body be made? To whom may a gift be made? What provision should be made for revocation? What should be the effect of the donor's gift upon rights of surviving relatives and upon civil and criminal liability of the surgeon or other medical officer involved in removal of the parts?

One of the proposed provisions, for example, would make it possible to make a gift by document other than a will. It may be a card, signed by the donor and two witnesses, to be carried on the person.

The code states, for another example, that the physician who certifies the death of a person cannot participate in removing or transplanting a part of the dead body.

UNIFORMITY of anatomical gift laws is needed not only because of the great variations in the existing statutory provisions, but also because of the high mobility of the American population, Pierce explains.

"Although a gift may be executed in state A to an institution in that state, death may occur in state B, and given scientific problems of timing or removal of the part of the body and the difficulty of transportation of the body or part, the most effective and socially desirable use of the gift may be in state B or even state C."

The problem is much broader than the question of transplants of hearts, kidneys, and livers, Pierce says. "Parts of human bodies are used in many aspects of medical science including teaching, research, therapy, and transplantation."

Over the years, Pierce adds, many statutes have been adopted. "More recently, as medical science has progressed, specialized statutes have been passed authorizing disposition by the deceased of portions of his body."

"While more than 30 states

have, since 1950, adopted statutes dealing with this subject, most of them are less than comprehensive and adequate.

Many of the statutes, for example, fail to provide for revocation of gift after its execution."

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EDUCATORS VISIT INDUSTRY: Jon P. Adams (second from right), dean of technical-vocational instruction at Schoolcraft College, was among educators visiting Detroit Edison's engineering research department as part of a Technician Faculty Conference sponsored by the Detroit utility. He is shown here examining a sonic tester developed in Detroit Edison's research laboratories for the de-

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Strikes Hurt State's Labor Climate Image

Recent strikes in Michigan in automobiles, construction, the public schools, utilities, and the lengthy Detroit newspaper strike have combined to worsen the long-standing image of Michigan as a state where the labor climate is bad.

Because of the fear of labor discord, says Gretchen Saam of the University of Michigan's Bureau of Industrial Relations, many large firms have for some

years avoided locating plants in Michigan, and large Michigan employers have located expansion facilities outside the state.

Miss Saam, who is directing a series of labor relations seminars for managers, points out that "although the reputation is undoubtedly exaggerated, and lingers from a past which is much worse than the present, Michigan industry and unions will be required to work hard to avoid useless strife which ultimately damages both management and the worker."

labor relations is a joint one, but leadership through establishing a sound policy climate for labor relations rests more on management than the unions.

The series of 16 two- and three-day seminars on labor relations for managers from president to foreman, programmed by Miss Saam, is designed to provide education sessions for both line and staff managers in unionized and non-unionized plants, experienced negotiators or novices.

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INSTRUCTORS and speakers come from the ranks of arbitrators, government experts, lawyers, professors, and company bargaining leaders. A list of seminars with dates, speakers, and fees can be obtained by writing to Miss Gretchen Saam, Program Director, Bureau of Industrial Relations, 506 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

C'ville Aide State Group Vice Chairman

Edward Salitz, business manager of the Clarensville school district, has been appointed by the Michigan School Business Officials organization as vice chairman of the Insurance Committee for the 1968-69 school year.

Salitz, upon acceptance of this appointment, will automatically become the committee's chairman for the next school year, 1969-70.

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