CHICAGO (AP) — Transplants of tissue from human fetuses offer hope in treating AIDS and other dis-eases, doctors said Monday, but they acknowledged the need to resolve ethical questions surrounding the

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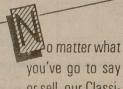
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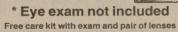
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SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

Anti-abortionists have denounced

procedures involving the use of tissue from fetuses obtained through spontaneous or induced abortions. The transplants, mostly brain and

glandular tissue, are supported by the American Medical Association's Council on Scientific Affairs and its Council on Ethical and Judicial Af-The councils urged continued

federal funding for the transplants in a joint report discussed Monday during the AMA's annual policymaking convention.

The report notes that fetal-tissue transplants have "led to the development of a number of important research and medical advances

But Dr. George M. Bohigian, chairman of the science council, and Dr. Russel H. Patterson Jr., chairman of the judicial group, acknowl-

At issue is the possibility that a decision to have an abortion will be

cover reasonable expenses coupled with a decision to donate fe-tion and use of tissue obtained from tal tissue for transplantation, they dead fetuses is governed by the Uni-

The principal ethical concern . . . is the degree to which the decision to have an abortion is separated from the decision to donate the post-mortem tissue."

> -doctors, -AMA council

The use of fetal tissue for transplantation purposes is ethically permissable" when a number of condi-

tions are met, they wrote. These conditions include: • The recipient of the tissue is not designated by the donor.

A final decision regarding abortion is made before initiating discussion of the transplantation use

of fetal tissue. • Fetal tissue is not provided in

has been adopted by all states and the District of Columbia. The act permits the donation of fetal tissue for research purposes

form Anatomical Gift Act, "which

with the consent of either parent and without objection from the However, several states have re-

strictive statutes governing the donation of fetal tissue for research.

edge the ethical dilemmas posed by such research. exchange for financial remuneration above that which is necessary to search, the doctors note.

The authors note that the acquisitem use of fetal remains for "an medical experimentation" if the is sue is derived from an induced abor

> In one recent study involving h man fetal tissue, liver cells and bitso thymus and lymph glands train planted into mice with impaired in mune systems helped make the systems function properly. The doctors wrote that the effort may be come a valuable model in studyin

Fetal brain tissue transplants als could offer promising advances in the treatment of diabetes and Par kinson's disease, they said. Pea-brain cells are still capable of growth unlike adult brain cells.

Transplants using tissue from fetus after spontaneous or induce abortion would appear to be an Massachusetts and Michigan laws prohibit abortion if it is conditional and organs, the report said.

# Bentsen attempts to expand Medicaid

introduced legislation Monday that would expand Medicaid health-care coverage to thousands of low-income children and pregnant women at an estimated annual cost of \$1 billion.

The Texas Democrat is attempting to provide Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and children younger than age 6 in families whose income is 185 percent of the poverty level — \$22,385 for a family of four.

Under legislation enacted last year and being phased in fiscal 1989 and 1990, Medicaid coverage is guaranteed to pregnant women and infants under age 1 in families whose income is at

Bentsen's bill would expand coverage to an additional 300,000 pregnant women and 1.6 million children younger than age 6 in fiscal years 1990 and 1991, his office said.

The estimated cost of phasing in Medicaid coverage would be \$790 million the first year and \$1.2 billion in 1991.

"America is facing what one health group re-cently called a 'child health crisis' and we must respond to it," Bentsen said in remarks accompanying the bill. "American babies die at a higher rate than babies born in Singapore or 16 other countries. More than 40,000 infants die in this cou try every year.

Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finan

Committee, said the bill is aimed at assuring the most vulnerable of the 37 million America who have no health insurance will have a change

Bentsen said 40 percent of children younge than age 4 don't even get their basic set of imm

The Finance Committee has approved a other Bentsen bill that would provide a di health care tax credit to help pay the cost health insurance for children

## High Court rules railroad worker drug tests legal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, in its first decision focusing on drug testing in private em-ployment, ruled Monday that railroads may require tests for workers without bargaining with unions

In a 7-2 ruling, the justices said Conrail — the Consolidated Rail Corp. — acted legally when it unilaterally decided to use urinalysis tests to check for drugs.

The court based its ruling on an interpretation of the federal Railway Labor Act. That law applies to airlines as well, but the ruling may have limited impact for employers and their workers outside those two

transportation industries.

The justices, in two key decisions last March, said workers in sensitive government jobs or entrusted with public safety in federally regulated work may be forced to undergo the A lawyer for railway workers said the unions will now look to Congress

for help in assuring that drug tests are reliable and do not infringe on workers' privacy rights. In the drug-testing case, Conrail decided in 1987 to check for drugs

part of a urinalysis administered

workers periodically and when they return to work after absences.

The tests were adopted originally

But their primary purpose before screening change is minor beau 1987 was to check for physical fit- "the action is arguably justified ness, not the presence of drugs. For example, the tests would reveal bargaining agreement."
whether an employee had diabetes or other health problems.

He added: "Conrail's well-estal lished recognition of the relevant."

Act, and therefore must be sub- reveals facts about employees' mitted to union-management nego-tiations. vate off-duty conduct."

Justices William J. Brennan a

Minor disputes can be settled unilaterally by the railroad, although day. Brennan, in an opinion

when Conrail was formed in 1976. ing for the court, said the dru the terms of the parties' collecti

Railway labor unions said adding the drug-screening component is a "major" labor-management dispute under the federal Railway Labor is engaging in medical testing the street recognition of the relevant of the relevant to t

Thurgood Marshall dissented Mo any decision is subject to arbitration. both, said the workers are entitled Justice Harry A. Blackmun, writ-more protection.

## Swedish official's widow identifies alleged killer

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) -The widow of Prime Minister Olof Palme pointed her finger across a hushed courtroom Monday and identified the man accused of killing her husband.

'I'm absolutely certain," Lisbeth Palme said when asked whether de-fendant Christer Pettersson was the man she saw a few feet away as Palme crumpled to the street with a

fatal bullet wound.
Palme, the leading figure in Swedish politics for more than a decade, was shot and killed Feb. 28, 1986, as he and his wife were leaving a late movie downtown. Pettersson has

denied his guilt.
Lisbeth Palme, who appeared on edge throughout her testimony, said she clearly saw the defendant's face but never looked at his hands to see whether he had a gun. She was

slightly injured in the attack Lisbeth Palme's testimony was a breakthrough for the prosecution, which had suffered repeated setbacks since the trial began two weeks ago. Several witnesses had backed away from earlier statements implicating Pettersson.

manslaughter, and a history of drug

"It will be difficult to let him go after this. If the court lets him off, they Pettersson, 42, was arrested in December. He has a long criminal resaid Clas Borgstom, a criminal lawcord, which includes a conviction for yer not directly involved with the case, in an interview with Swedish

Defense attorney Arne Liljer told a news conference his client "distressed" after Lisbeth Palm

testimony Lisbeth Palme, walked sideways hide her face from the 60 reporte

#### Mexico officials hope pact lessens debt anxiety

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government is hoping early renewal of an inflation-fighting pact will ease anxiety over prolonged foreign debt negotiations and bol-

The latest extension of the year-and-a-half-old pact, announced late Sunday, makes no major changes in the one that expires July 31. It says prices will be held steady and the one-peso-a-day devaluation of the country's currency against the U.S. dollar will be maintained. It mentions no new minimum wage increase

An agreement between the government and foreign commercial banks on their share of the country's \$107.4 billion foreign debt had been expected before the renewal was announced. Analysts say investors were becoming nervous over what both might contain, forcing the government to keep domestic interest rates high to keep capital in the country.

"The renewed pact strengthens Mexico's negotiate position" on the foreign debt, Carlos Salinas de Go said in a televised speech after the signing of the

Unity among labor, private enterprise, the farms tor and the government in bringing down inflat through the series of pacts has won recognition fr foreign governments and multilateral lending agend Salinas said. "Now opens a new space for us to not cept under pressure just any arrangement, but only contrary to reach an adequate agreement," he said.

'It's true, we need to reach an efficient agreen quickly to meet our proposals for growth, but we counting on internal strength to be able to accept what is convenient for Mexico," Salinas said.

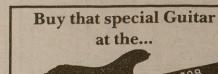
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