Barbara McKinney

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

JUN 27 1986

Dear Prof. McKinney

pricing life

I enjoyed your article, though I have less patience than you do with efforts to distinguish between negative + positive duties. I support your moving the "pricing" debate away from a control moral position to one of administrative optimization, with limited resources.

Forgotten in most discussions of "value of a life" are

1) value to whom — decedent or everybody else, family, etc.
2) indirect values, i.e. of a system that does or does not discriminate among individuals.
3) 2 or more individuals cannot each have an ∞-valued life! ∴ we say infinite to avoid having to set possibly unequal finite values.

So just as well to put VoL to one side except as an adm. tool.

Yours, Joshua Lederberg

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