

Principal Paying Highest Interest

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann: My sister passed away recently after a lingering illness. She was a widow in good circumstances. Her daughter is 14 and has been living with the school principal and his wife since her mother's illness. They have no family and of course are not experienced in raising children. The girl wants to stay with these strangers and they are putting up a struggle to keep her, but my husband and I believe she belongs with blood relatives. If we were to take this case to court do you think we could win? Also, is there any way to break a trust fund? The girl was left a sizable amount in her mother's will but nothing is available until she is 18. If we could get the girl and break the trust we could fix up our home and make a lovely place for her to live. —INTERESTED AUNT

Your proposition is as cold as the handles on a steel casket. From the last sentence of your letter you sound "interested" all right and I think I know in what. I'm no lawyer and can't advise you on the trust fund. If you take this case to court it shouldn't take the judge long to evaluate your "interest" and decide in favor of the "principal".

Dear Ann: I've been engaged three months and my fiancé has no conception of how to handle money. I've been giving her most of my pay check to pay on furniture and dishes and when I asked for receipts she never heard of one.

It seems she bought herself a new coat and has paid some of her own back bills. Also she signed up for a sewing machine which wasn't in the budget. She contracted for 31 classical music albums and we have no machine as yet. Isn't this dizzy?

Please don't advise me to break up with this girl. She's wonderful in many ways, has a terrific sense of humor and she really sends me. What's the solution? —DEFUNCT

So she sends you? But where . . . to the poorhouse? Stop handing your pay check over to this addle-brained child and take charge of the finances from here on in.

Her sense of humor won't be much of an asset when you're up to your adam's apple in debts and the creditors are camping on your doorstep. If you allow her to throw good money after bad you're gone, man—real gone.

Dear Ann: Recently some friends of ours lost a child at birth. We didn't go to the funeral. Was this incorrect? Is it proper to send flowers in such a case? We didn't know. What about sending a little gift to the mother?

We've asked around about the correct things to do but no one seems to know. Can you tell us? —G. G.

A newborn baby is a human being. Of course it's proper to attend the funeral and send flowers. Since it's too late for that now why not make a donation to your favorite charity in the name of the child? The parents will be notified of your thoughtfulness and will know you remembered.

To send the mother a gift under these circumstances is definitely uncalled for.

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Train Blows Up; 8 Die

ALGIERS, Dec. 12 (AP) — Eight persons were reported killed and at least seven others seriously injured tonight when a train blew up on a mine about 15 miles north of Colomb-Bechar in Western Algeria.

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Southerners Shy Away From Efforts to Create Democratic Party Advisory Board

By WILMOT HERCHER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (AP)—Efforts to create a new advisory committee for the Democratic party received another setback today when former Gov. John S. Battle of Virginia refused to join it. Battle's position was buttressed by Virginia's two Democratic senators, both of whom criticized Na-

tional Chairman Paul M. Butler's move to set up a 20-man group to "coordinate and advance efforts on behalf of Democratic programs and principles."

"The whole movement is very ill-advised, will create confusion and conflict and be of no value,"

Sen. Harry F. Byrd said at his home in Berryville, Va. Sen. A. Willis Robertson told Butler in a letter that Democrats in Congress are in a better position than any party advisory committee to make legislative decisions. Byrd and Robertson were not

asked to serve on the committee but an invitation was extended to Battle, who played a leading part in drafting the compromise that eliminated the party's so-called "loyalty" oath at its national conventions. "I have not accepted," Battle

said, "and, as presently advised, I do not plan to do so." Only 6 of the 20 Democratic leaders named to the committee by Butler last Wednesday have so far agreed to serve. Speaker of the House Sam Ray-

burn of Texas and other leading Democrats in the House have said they would be willing to "consult" with the advisory group. They have implied, however, that Democrats in Congress will decide on what bills to offer and support. Byrd said today that members of Congress "would resent an out-

side committee telling them what to do." The same position was taken by Robertson. It appeared to reflect some concern by Southern Democrats that the advisory committee would seek to push civil rights legislation.

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