

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Jennifer H. — He lied about everything.

Jack H. — We could be happy if it weren't for her parents and mine.

Jennifer H. — My husband and I were married 13 years ago in Europe. He and other soldiers were quartered in the house my father owned. We fell in love and my parents approved our marriage, but they wanted us to live with them.

Jack told my parents that his parents owned a store in the States and they needed him to help take care of it. He said I would have the best of everything, so my parents finally consented to my leaving.

Well, I soon discovered nothing was the way he said. His

parents didn't own the store, but only rented it. We had to move in with his parents and they made me work for them in the store and house. I would have gone right home, but a baby was on the way. Jack kept saying things would get better, but they never did. We have three children and my parents keep writing me to come home. We quarrel constantly and are very unhappy, so I want to leave him.

Jack H. — I never really said my parents owned the store. I just said they needed my help in it. The store is really owned by an aged uncle who can't operate it himself. We will get it when he dies, so even if I did say what Jennifer claims I said, it wasn't such a very big lie.

Compared with what Jenny had in Europe when I was there, she has gotten the best of everything. Her parents have been successful since the end of the war, but that's not my fault. They could send something along for the kids if they're such big shots.

Sometimes I think Jenny and I could be happy if it were not for her parents and mine. It seems mine always say the wrong thing to her. Whenever she gets a letter from home, she cries for days. She was only 17 when she left and I guess she misses her parents a lot. She feels my parents don't like her, which in a way is true. They feel she has always high-hatted them.

The Council — Jennifer and Jack have buried themselves deep under a pile of petty grievances and miseries and show little desire to make an active effort to dig themselves out. They appear to have no sense of responsibility toward the inno-

cent victims of their wretched entanglement — the three children.

"He said I would have the best of everything," declares Jennifer, believing this justifies her lack of active effort to create a happy home. Perhaps it has not occurred to her Jack may also have expected to have the best of everything, with her for a wife. From both accounts, she appears to have disappointed him brutally.

Jennifer was probably a very young 17, filled with completely unrealistic dreams, when she married. She obviously has not matured from that point if she still looks towards her parents as the source of all happiness. She should consider that, although they may be able to provide her with a few more material things, they can hardly fulfill her need for a husband, a home and a father for her children.

On the other hand, Jack should realize his wife wouldn't be human if she didn't suffer from homesickness for her parents. If he cannot promise her a

visit home some time in the near future, he should try to get his parents to show her a little more sympathy and affection. Jenny would probably melt toward them if she received this kind of attention.

Most important of all, Jenny and Jack should drop the petty recriminations that so seriously undermine their relationship. They should wipe the slate clean and try to start anew like newly-weds.

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RECORD BREAKS RECORD

Paterson, N.J. — Francisco Gerema, 19, of Passaic, N.J., was arraigned Saturday on one of the longest—and most detailed—traffic complaints in the history of the police department. Officer Robert King charged Gerema with speeding on the wrong side of the street, having no driver's license, passing a red light, ignoring a stop sign, and failing to obey an officer's signal, violating the inspection law and obstructed vision.

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