

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a woman'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.

Mrs. H. M.—Howard has turned against his father.
Howard M.—He has no respect for my mother.

Mr. H. M.—She brought him up to despise me.

Mrs. H. M.—I am having a great deal of trouble with my husband and our 16-year-old son, Howard.

Our marriage was not a happy one and we drifted far apart. My husband has always been very critical of me and nasty in his manner. I never realized that Howard took all this in and was hurt for me, but now he has turned against his father in the most awful way. There are constant fights and the two of them have even come to blows.

I point out to Howard that his father has always been a good provider and if I left him, I know I would have to find him, to get support from him. He is so vindictive. All I ask is that Howard hold his tongue in front of his father so we can live in peace.

Howard M.—Why should I hold my tongue in front of my father when he doesn't hold his in front of my mother? He has no respect for her at all and treats her like dirt.

My mother says he is a good provider, but he is really very stingy with money. I know that he makes much more than he says he does. If my mother left him I wouldn't let her take his filthy money. It would take long for me to be able to support her as well as he does.

Mr. H. M.—My wife had brought Howard up to despise me and now she blames me for making a problem out of him. She let me know from the start of our marriage that she was only staying with me for the sake of support. Now she suddenly wants peace too!

The Council: Two facts emerge clearly from this ugly tangle—first, it took two persons to create this misery, and second, that Howard is the innocent and most abused victim of it. Mr. and Mrs. H. M. must derive some perverse pleasure out of torturing themselves and one another. This pleasure is denied Howard.

It would probably be impossible to find out who struck the first blow in this marriage—Mr. H. M. when he was "nasty" to his wife or Mrs. H. M. when she let her husband know that she had no love for him.

They ought to know, however, they are both guilty of having brought up this boy on the poison of their contempt for one another. He now shows only his bitterness toward his father, but it is doubtful whether, in the long run, he will have much love for the mother who stayed with her husband "to get support from him."

How much damage can be undone here? That depends on how much courage and determination the H. M.'s can muster to help their son. They would need some outside help, probably from a social worker who could work with them as a family. They must recognize, however, that they cannot help their son without changing themselves.

They should also recognize there is more at stake here than getting some peace and quiet in the home. Howard must acquire some love and respect for both his parents if he is to have a chance for a reasonably normal and happy adulthood.

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Arlene S.—My daughter is unhappy living with me.
Mrs. T. W.—Is it right to force the child?

Arlene S.—Six years ago when I was 17, I got into a heap of trouble and had an illegitimate baby. I didn't want to give the baby up and my mother was willing to take care of the child with her own little boy who was only a year older.

I went to live and work in another city. A year ago I married a wonderful man who wants to take care of me and my child. This is what I had always dreamed of. We took my daughter with us, but it turns out that no matter what we do for her, she is unhappy and says she wants to live with Grandma.

I love my child and want to have her with me and my husband has been so kind to her, giving her treats and all kinds of attention. I think I shouldn't let her visit my mother so she'll get used to being with us, but my mother is against this plan.

Mrs. T. W.—We all want to make Dolores happy. That is the main consideration, but I can't see how it is right to prevent her from visiting the home she has known all her life. She thinks of my little boy as a brother and is lonesome without him. She cries all the time when she comes here and begs me not to send her back to her mother.

I have tried to do right by this child and have always told her that her mother loves her and that someday she would go to live with her. This always seemed to frighten Dolores. She

was happy when her mother came to visit, but always said she wanted to stay with me and Johnny.

I feel very sorry for my daughter when she sees that her own child isn't happy with her after she has looked forward all these years to making a home. But is it right to force the child?

The Council: It may be very difficult for Arlene to face the fact that the home she has dreamed about is a strange, frightening and forbidding place to her little girl. Lots of love and attention would probably help to make Dolores more comfortable eventually, but it seems cruel to put this child through emotional torment if it is not absolutely necessary.

Dolores has a good home with her grandmother and it is rather unfair to take her out of it in order to give her mother more pleasure. The change in living quarters may seem a small one to adults and the change from a grandmother's home to a mother's home may, on the surface, appear to be a positive good—but it doesn't work that way for children.

Dolores is being torn up by her emotional roots. The words mother and grandmother have little meaning for her. She only knows where she wants to be.

For the sake of her future relationship with her child, Arlene should try to accept the fact that for the time being her little girl is better off with her grandmother. She should try to make Dolores as happy and comfortable as possible when she visits with her, but should put no pressure on her to change her situation.

It is possible that when Dolores nears teen age she will feel less dependent upon her grandmother and her young uncle, and will be grateful for a young mother and want to live with her. Even if this does not come to pass, however, Arlene can have a fine relationship with her daughter if she puts the child's happiness first and doesn't make undue demands on her.

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Grange

Griffin Creek Grange will meet in regular session Thursday, Dec. 12.

Plans will be made for the Christmas party to be held Saturday, Dec. 21.

Mrs. Clyde Sturgill, lecturer, is planning a program for the Grange meeting.

Gold Hill Grange Plans for the annual Christmas party were discussed at the regular meeting of Gold Hill Grange Thursday, Dec. 5.

This party will be held in the Grange hall Thursday, Dec. 19. There will be the usual Christmas tree, with gift exchange and program. The juveniles will participate as usual in this affair, providing their share of the program.

There will be a rehearsal of the Grange chorus on Tuesday evening, Dec. 17 when a group of Grangers also will meet to trim the tree.

Following the business meeting, the lecturers program, featuring the annual religious service was held. A reading of the 91st psalm was given by chaplain Nora Wait and hymns sung by the members. This was followed by a short game in a rather lighter vein.

Mrs. Wait reported that Agnes Gray is home from the hospital and that Glenn Chase is very much improved after his recent operation. Mrs. Wait also announced the death of a former member, Frank Lockwood.

The Juvenile Grange will meet on Thursday, Dec. 12 when the juveniles will put on a short Christmas program. The Juvenile Grange committee has planned a Christmas treat for the boys and girls at this meeting. All members are urged to attend.

RAID KILLS 23 AFRICANS
Nairobi, Kenya—Raiding Merille tribesmen killed 23 peaceful herdsmen last week in a sudden outbreak of tribal warfare on Kenya's plains, it has been disclosed. Official sources said the Marilles swooped across the tribal boundary, shot their way into a segment of Turkana territory with outmoded Austrian and Italian rifles, attacked three villages and killed 23 men before withdrawing. It was the third such attack in four weeks, they said.

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Huntsville, Ala.—Dr. Werner Von Braun, after saying he could not have been at fault, as charged by Democratic National Chairman Paul M. Butler, for missiles lag in the Truman administration because he was not then even a U.S. citizen:

"It was never my intention to assess the blame upon anyone for the so-called 'lost years.' My personal conviction is that the United States could not have undertaken major military projects involving large expenditures in that period. The war was over and the people wanted homes, autos and other things, not long range rockets."

Washington—The Defense department in an announcement indicating the U.S. still expects to launch its full-sized earth satellite in March:

"The repairs (to the Cape Canaveral launching site) are not expected to jeopardize the launching of an earth satellite according to previously announced plans."

St. Louis—President Assistant Sherman Adams, urging a constitutional provision to allow the vice president to take over presidential duties without delay in event of the president's disability:

"In these times it takes no imagination at all to think of a situation where delay of a presidential decision due to incapacity for a day, or even for a few hours, could have grave consequences."

Atlantic City—James G. Cross, president of the Bakery Workers union, whose refusal to step down from office led to an AFL-CIO expulsion vote against his union:

"I am not corrupt or unfit. I'm the whipping boy—the scapegoat."

New York—Adlai E. Stevenson, twice Democratic candidate for president, on some effects of the Russian Sputnik:

"Russia stands today in the eyes of the majority of the members of the world's population as more skillful, more powerful, yes, and ironically, more peaceful, than we are."

Several Speaking 'Flubs' Noted in Studio One Show

By WILLIAM EWALD
United Press Correspondent

New York—A "Studio One" show will move to the West coast in January in a bid to juice its ratings by pursuing a star policy.

Monday night, "Studio One," in one of its farewell efforts out of Manhattan, presented the first section of a two-part Arthur Hailey hospital drama, "No Deadly Medicine." It was an adult eastern.

Bailey's drama deals with an ancient theme—the clash between old and new. Specifically, it traces the conflict between an elderly pathologist (played by Lee Cobb) and his new young assistant (William Shatner).

Woman's Role Lauded
Cobb, one of our more intelligent actors, settled down into a scintillating performance, only slightly marred by an opening scene that saw him crank and crochet around like Lionel Barrymore playing Dr. Gillespie. Particularly fine, I thought, was the acting of Betty Sinclair who essayed the role of a woman doctor. Shatner's performance was properly cold, but impaired a bit by some of those annoying mannerisms that so many young actors seem to affect nowadays.

There were, it might be mentioned, several irritating flubs during the hour: Cobb said: "Lucy Grainger is having a baby" when he meant to say "Elizabeth Alexander is having a baby." Shatner referring to a town called "New Richport," said "New Haven," by mistake. And I'm sure that once, someone referred to a character named "Dr. David Coleman" as

REDS CHARGE ALLIES
Berlin—The East German Communist government charged today that the western allies have forfeited their right to be in Berlin. In the official 1957 yearbook of the German Democratic Republic, the Reds said the United States, Britain and France have violated Berlin's four-power status by converting West Berlin into a spy center for counter-revolution against the Soviet Zone. By doing this, they have deprived themselves of the right to stay in the divided city, the Reds said.

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2⁹⁸ to 19⁹⁸

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seemed to frighten Dolores. She