

Family Council

Jack D. — Bea isn't doing right by her father.
Beatrice D. — I couldn't wound my mother.

Jack D. — My wife and I are having quite a dispute over her parents.

Her mother and father were divorced seven years ago and haven't seen each other since. Her father remarried, but is now separated from his second wife. He isn't a well man and lives quite far from us. He has written that he would like to come to see us some holiday. That's the only time he can get away from his business.

My wife invites her mother for every holiday. That's okay with me, except I don't think it's fair to leave out the old man all the time. I tell Bea she is not doing right by her father, but she says her mother comes first.

Beatrice D. — My mother has always spent every holiday with us and she would be wounded terribly if I told her I wanted to invite my father instead, I wouldn't even dare suggest such a thing.

The truth is I would like to see my father and I've told him I'd be glad to have him any time — but not on a holiday. He says the holiday is the only time he can make it. Well, if he can't arrange something for himself in order to see his own daughter and grandchildren, I don't know what I'm supposed to do about it.

I don't see why Jack should interfere in this business, anyway. They're not his parents. I have a right to do as I like about them.

The Council — Beatrice should not resent her husband's "interference." His concern reflects his interest in his entire family. Possibly he would like his children to know their grandfather. Perhaps, as a man, he can't help identifying with another man. It bothers him that a child's loyalty can be dedicated exclusively to one parent.

It is also possible that Jack sympathizes with Beatrice's own definite desire to see her father. According to her own account, it is really fear of her mother that prevents her from arranging this.

Beatrice must accept the fact that divorce necessarily entails hurt feelings. The old wounds open easily—usually on both sides. Out of fear of hurting her mother, Beatrice continues to hurt her father.

The only answer we can see is for Beatrice to follow her own heart. She should be willing to accept her father's word that he can only make the visit on a holiday. She should tell her mother honestly that she wishes to see her father on some particular occasion.

It is possible that Beatrice's mother would not be quite as wounded as she believes. But even if the wound does go deep, Beatrice should recognize that she has a right to follow her own impulses in such an important matter.

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Marine Sentenced To Hard Labor

Yokosuka, Japan.—Marine Sgt. Adrian A. McLane, Philadelphia, has been sentenced to two years confinement at hard labor for cruelty to prisoners at the Sasebo Naval Base brig.

The husky, 6-foot, 200-pound former assistant brig warden also was sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances for the confinement period, reduction to the rank of private and dishonorable discharge from the service.

The defense apparently was shocked at the severity of the sentence. The defense had anticipated at the worst a bad conduct discharge, not a dishonorable discharge.

DRUNKS AMAZE CHIEF

Knoxville, Tenn.—The police chief of Bandung, Indonesia, expressed surprise here Tuesday at the number of Americans who are arrested for drunkenness. The chief, Lt. Col. Soelaman Djajoesman, said there has never been an arrest for drunken driving in Indonesia because people there "don't drink enough alcohol to get drunk."

SINGING CYCLIST FREED

Oxford, England.—Salvation Army bandsman Brian Clack, 23, went free without sentence today although he admitted driving his bicycle dangerously last Dec. 9. Police charged Clack with playing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" on his trumpet instead of steering his bike.

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