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.

Harriet R.—He thinks more of his buddy than of me.

Leon J.—I don't want to break with him over women.

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Harriet R.—I am very unhappy because the man to whom I'm engaged seems to think more of his best buddy than of me.

Leon's friend, Frank, just didn't approved of me from the beginning. He wanted Leon to marry another girl they have both known from their school days. Leon went with her mor many years, but says they just couldn't get along.

The first time he met me Frank treated me in a very slighting, insulting way. He has tried to bust up our friendship and it looks as though he has no intention of stopping, even now that we are engaged. Therefore, I want Leon to stop seeing Frank. Is that too much to ask?

Leon J.—Frank and I have been best buddies for about ten years and I don't want us to break up our friendship because of women. Besides, if I give up this friendship, it means giving up practically all my friends.

We have been in one crowd and Frank and his fiance are kind of the center of the group. They would leave me out of things if it came to a tossup between Frank and me.

I think Harriet is being very silly and childish about this. After all, I picked her because I love her and I won't let anyone break us up. She should have confidence in me. Frank says that she's the domineering type and I'm afraid that's true.

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The Council: No, we don't think Harriet is being silly and childish. She has a legitimate beef.

In our opinion Frank is not a true friend at all. It is he who is domineering. He is apparently accustomed to being the leader of his group of friends and is angry because his will has been twarted.

Harriet is placed in a most difficult position because her fiance is evidently under the sway of this small-time Fuerrer. If Leon were a more mature person himself he would let his friend know in no uncertain terms that he expects all his friends to accept his choice of a woman and to show her every respect and consideration.

Friends often have unfavorable opinions about one another's choice of mates, but if they are mature individuals and if they value the friendship, they keep those opinions to themselves. They make an effort to establish good relationships and they have an instinctive regard for their friends' choices.

If Frank persists in his ugly behavior, Leon certainly ought to break up the relationship. He will be well rid of this character and the foolish weaklings in the crowd that picks such a character as its center.

If Leon persists in clinging to a "buddy" who treats his fiance slightingly, we would say that Harriet would be much better off without such a man. Surely there are better potential husbands than this on the marriage market.

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Political Unrest Tide Feared in Latin America

Washington — (UPI) — Latin American diplomats here fear a new tide of political unrest in some of the American republics may weaken confidence of U. S. businessmen who might invest in their countries.

They also fear President Eisenhower may hesitate to go ahead with his program to help speed up hemispheric economic development.

Abortive Uprisings

The diplomats pointed out that much of the recent news from south of the border dealt with abortive military uprisings, labor riots and student strikes. They conceded that this picture hardly conformed with their arguments that Latin America is the land of the future for U. S. investors.

The officials also regretted such developments almost on the eve of the inter-American foreign ministers conference here next week.

Much of the success of the conference will depend on the United States response to mounting Latin American demands for economic assistance. An objective of the conference is to find new ways to channel private investment money into potential industries. U. S. officials fear this will be impossible unless the republics create a new climate of confidence.

Political Stability

Officials believed, after the fall of military dictatorships in Argentina, Colombia and Venezuela, that Latin America would move into a period of political stability which would permit the republics to remedy some of their economic ills.

But they also were aware that time would be needed by the new democratic regimes to clear away havoc in the wake of the departed dictatorships. They were further perturbed, however, by recent violence in Venezuela and Mexico and troubles besetting Argentina's new constitutional government.

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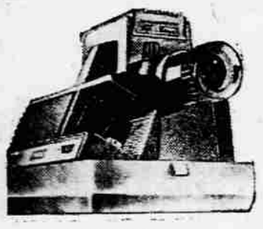

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