

## 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.

**Leon F.** — My wife and I are trying to help out a best friend who has become estranged from his parents.

George did not get married until he was 35 because he was dominated by his parents. My wife and I kept urging him to marry and introducing him to different girls, but it just didn't take. Suddenly George just upped and found himself a girl and got married within a matter of weeks.

It happens that the girl is of different faith and his parents are in an uproar. I have tried to talk to the parents and calm them — to no avail. They refuse to see George unless he goes without his wife. George says he won't go without her. I have tried to convince him that he ought to go for just one visit to kind of smooth things over. If they don't come around after that, I wouldn't blame him for staying off them.

George G. — My parents have

placed himself in an unfortunate position in this affair. We suspect that he'll get the reverse of gratitude from everyone concerned. Anyone who tries to serve as an intermediary between close friends or relatives is almost certain to complicate things further and finally wind up as a kind of scapegoat.

George's parents may be domineering, yet there is little excuse for a man of 35 to be as completely browbeaten as George is. George revealed his terror of his parents when he desperately plunged into a marriage before giving himself a reasonable length of time to know his intended.

George should not blame his parents, but his own cowardice before them for the attitude they now take. He owes his parents a certain amount of moral responsibility and should have informed them of his impending marriage and given them an opportunity to meet his fiancée before the marriage. If they had refused this opportunity he would now be on firm ground. As it is, he now feels guilty at having "run out" on them and tries to make amends through a go-between. Naturally his parents get the

The Council — Leon has

## Time Running Out, East Germany Says

Berlin — (UPI) — The East German Communists told the West Tuesday that time is running out for West Berlin and that the city's future must be negotiated.

The statement in the official Communist newspaper, Neues Deutschland, coincided with Soviet and satellite calls for a Big Four summit conference.

The newspaper sharply attacked the western foreign ministers' decision in Paris to reject Soviet proposals for the conversion of West Berlin into a "free city" and said "the Soviet note must be answered, the future of West Berlin must be negotiated."

idea that he is so unsure of himself that the marriage has little chance of success.

George needs to square with himself before he can square with his parents. He must convince himself that he had a right to marry. Then he will be unafraid to tackle his parents to try to win their acceptance — by himself. (Copyright 1958, General Features Corp.)

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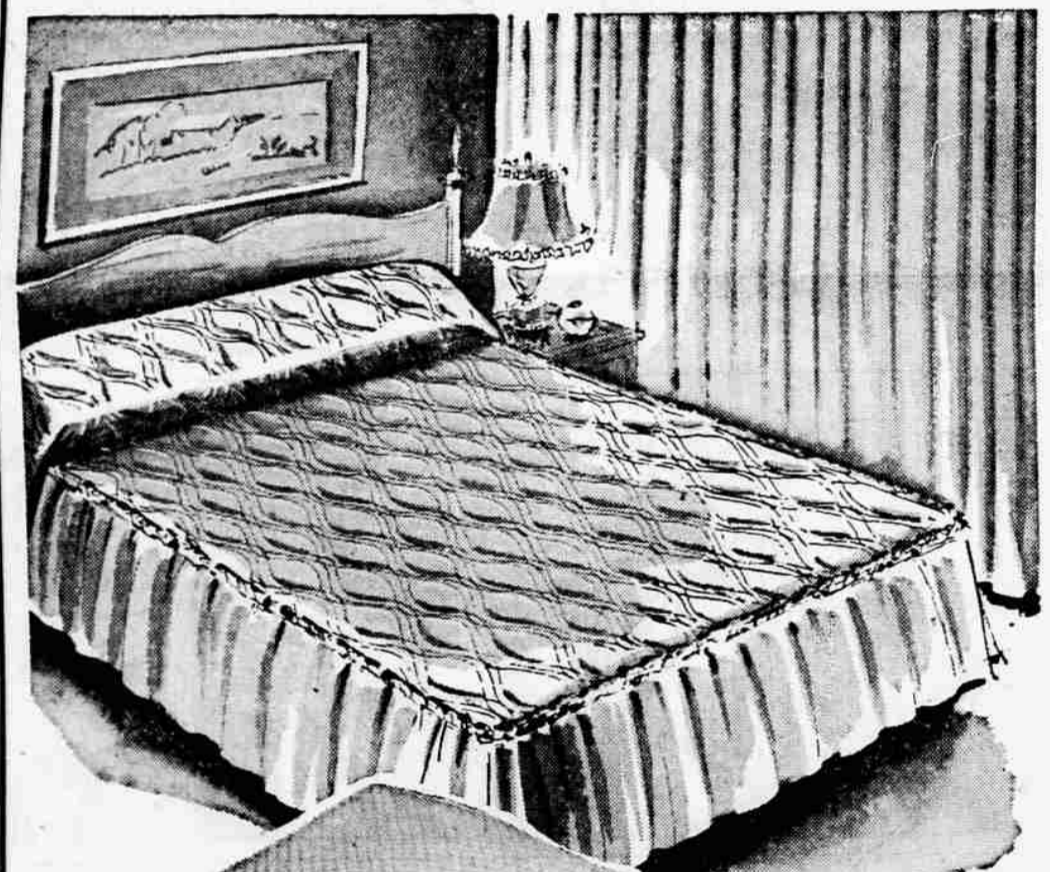
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