

## Machines Learn By Experience

New York, (Science Service) Automatic control devices can be designed to learn through experience to improve their performances, as a result of a new theory reported here today.

Robert Kalaba and Richard Bellman of the RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif., said they applied new mathematical methods to devise a system of controls that improves a machine's performance by adapting it to current circumstances. The military and commercial implications of such devices are "impressive," they reported to the Institute of Radio Engineers meeting here.

A machine built using these principles would be instructed both in the routine operations of arithmetic and in ways to modify its routines in accordance with the nature of the solution.

## The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper 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. J. F.** - My daughters-in-law resent me.

**Leonard F.** - She doesn't let us do things for her.

**Mrs. J. F.** - I am a 60-year-old widow, living alone and working part time to support myself and not be a burden on anyone. My husband died a year ago, leaving me next to nothing.

My big pleasure in life is my grandchildren. My two sons each have three children and I love spending time with them. I like to have one family or the other over every Sunday for dinner. In addition, I visit a couple of evenings a week. I'm not the type to make a pest of myself. I just talk to the children for a while. I don't even want a cup of coffee.

In spite of this my daughters-in-law seem to resent me. They always seem to find excuses for not coming to the regular Sunday dinner. They are very cool to me when I visit. I have done everything I can to be the right kind of mother, but somehow I seem to have failed.

**Leonard F.** - My wife and I try our best to do things for Mother, but she never lets us. My brother says the same thing.

We would like to contribute to Mother's support, but she won't let us. She says she doesn't mind working, but complains all the time of tiredness. We try to stick to a strict schedule for her Sunday visits, but it doesn't al-

ways work out right. Things sometimes come up and we can't make it.

Also, Mother has a habit of bringing the kids things they shouldn't have before bedtime. But if we say anything she is off us for weeks. She always acts as though she is unwanted and sometimes won't even take off her coat.

**The Council** - Probably it would help everyone concerned if Mrs. J. F. would admit to herself that she is lonely and frightened and actually wants more from her children than they are able to give her. She doesn't want money at this time, or even more contact with them, but a sense of security.

Undoubtedly Mrs. J. F. is deeply troubled by her sudden loneliness and can't help thinking about the future - about the time when she may not be able to work or to maintain herself. Perhaps her sons can give her some re-assurance on that score. From both accounts it is apparent that they would not desert her.

Once she has acknowledged her own fears, Mrs. J. F. would realize that she must try to get over her self-pity and take a more realistic view of things. She actually has as much security as a person can reasonably expect. She can take some pride in her ability to work and be independent, and this should strengthen her innermost feelings.

Mrs. J. F. could gain addi-

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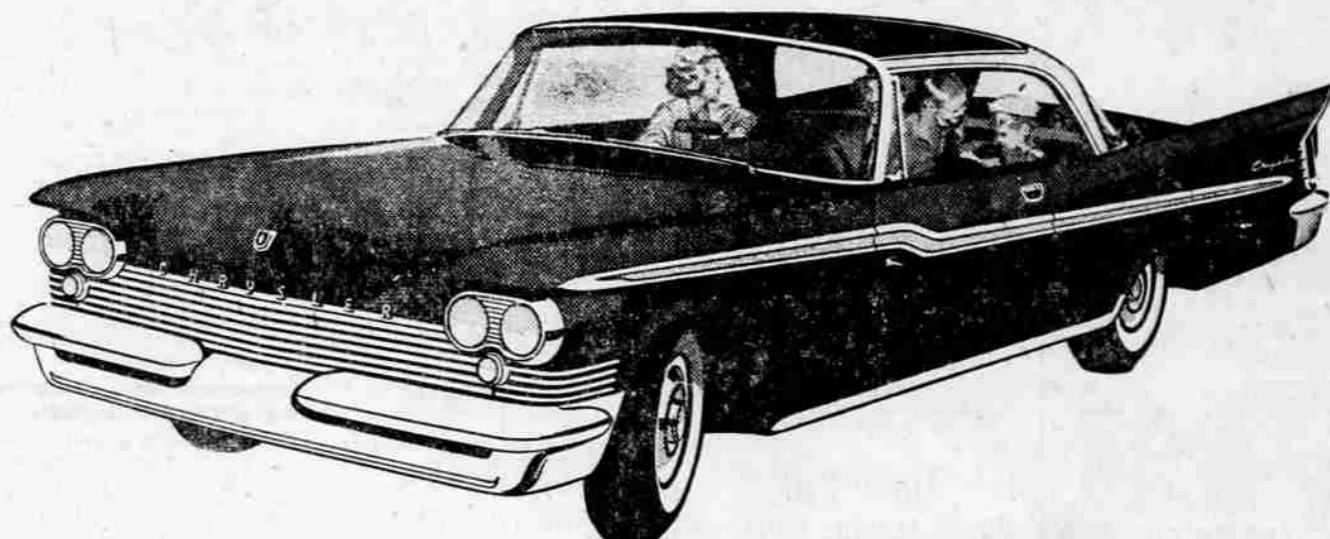
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tional strength by making a big effort to find sociability and interests outside of her children. She is young enough to become active in church and community affairs, to find hobbies and new friends. When she needs her children and grandchildren less, she

will find herself becoming more at ease with them. She will not refuse to take off her coat or have a cup of coffee in her son's home because she will know from inside that she needs and wants little more from them than affection and happy social interchange.

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## What Is The Law?

This column is prepared as a public service by the College of Law, Willamette University, Salem, to explain basic legal principles, not to provide legal advice. The reader is cautioned not to apply these cases to his own problems without an attorney's advice, for differing facts may change the outcome.

### Statutes on Wills Can Operate Contrary to Plan

In 1956 Joe was a very successful businessman who, although he was 43 years old, had never married. He had made a will while in the military service in World War II which gave all of his property to his two sisters, Joan and Jane. His sisters were his nearest and most beloved relatives.

In 1957 Joe married Emma, a 28-year-old divorcee. He did not make another will after the marriage. Joe and Emma proved to be incompatible and their marriage was on the brink of dissolution when Joe was killed in an automobile accident in 1958. Despite the will, Emma inherited all of Joe's property, married Charlie (who was well aware of her financial status) and lived happily thereafter. Jane and Joan are now struggling along on a small pension.

### Victim of Rules

Joe never intended to leave his sister's destitute. But he was to blame for their poverty because he failed to keep his personal affairs in order. He was the victim of two rules of law which are basically beneficial but which may operate to injure the negligent. One of these laws, on the books in most states, holds that marriage automatically revokes all wills executed by either spouse before the ceremony. Statutes pronouncing this rule are enacted by legislatures to protect the deserving wife. It was the presumption of the legislators that most wives fall into this category. It would have been unjust to have all of Joe's property go to his sisters under his will if his wife had been his faithful companion for 40 years.

### Property Distributed

Another law provides that if a person dies without a will his property is distributed in accordance with the plan provided by statute. The law also applies if the will is revoked. This plan is designed to take care of the ordinary situations. In Oregon and most states a wife and children share the property of a deceased husband if he leaves no will. The wife gets all of the property if there are no children.

Unfortunately Joe, Joan and Jane did not represent the orthodox family arrangement and the statutory plan operated in a way clearly contrary to the desires of the deceased.

### TANKER EXPLODES

Ilheus, Brazil - (UPI) - Twenty-five persons were reported dead or missing Saturday in an explosion and fire aboard the Brazilian oil tanker Urubaton. Twenty other persons were injured when the tanker blew up while unloading asphalt in this northern Brazilian port.

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