

Family Council

Dianne R. — I want to be a drum majorette!
Mrs. K. R. — Her father is right about the costumes.

Dianne R. — I am 16 and a junior in high school. I've got only one big problem. I want to be a drum majorette and my parents don't want me to be.

It is a big honor to be chosen to train for this at my school. Only 25 girls are picked and then you may be eliminated in the end. You are chosen on the basis of appearance, personality and popularity. You have to have at least average grades too.

I think that my mother would let me do it because she knows how important it is to me, but my father is dead set against it. His ideas are really out of the Victorian age. He gives me that stuff about "no daughter of mine will display herself half naked before a cheering stadium." In the first place, we aren't half naked. In the second, people aren't cheering us but the team. In the third place, my dad just doesn't understand anything.

Mrs. K. R. — I am really caught in the middle on this thing. I can't help but sympathize with Dianne. It certainly means a lot to a young girl to be singled out for this special honor. Besides, Dianne is full of fun and high spirits and loves to participate in things. This is such a fine chance.

On the other hand, I think my husband is right about objecting to the costumes the girls wear and the way they cavort. They are not as bad as the ones I've seen from some schools, but these costumes are brief enough. Several mothers have told me they wouldn't permit their daughters to do it. Dianne says those mothers are jealous that their daughters weren't chosen. It could be, but the whole thing bothers me just the same.

We have offered Dianne a wonderful vacation trip this summer if she will only give up this idea of being a drum majorette — but she won't.

The Council — When the generals are uncertain and find they have to bribe the men to move in the right direction, they may as well give up the war.

The "right direction" on the issue of drum majorettes or any other activity problem of teen-agers is an individual matter. Standards vary in different families and communities. Sometimes special exceptions to rules are made for the sake of a particular gain for the child. But it never hurts a child to be deprived of an activity he wants — if he understands that some special principle is involved.

The important thing is for the parents to agree on policy and then follow through firmly. The child should get a full hearing before a decision is made. The parents should take time to think through the decision. Once it's made, it should stick.

Dianne apparently knows through experience that nagging will help her cause. She has already been offered a bribe and she knows that she can divide and probably conquer her parents. Naturally, she hasn't too much respect for her parents' standards.

We get the impression that Mr. K. R. feels helpless against the strong odds of the prevailing standards. He blusters emotionally into a position without giving Dianne a fair hearing or the total problem much thought. Then Mrs. K. R. thinks it over and talks him out of it. No objective standard has been set and the only thing Dianne has learned is that you can do as you please if you are persistent and make enough noise.

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Motel, Hotel Tax May Not Be Legal

Portland — UPI — A proposed tax on hotel and motel rooms by the city of Portland may not be legal, the city attorney said Thursday.

Attorney Alexander G. Brown said a similar revenue-raising attempt by Eugene was ruled unconstitutional.

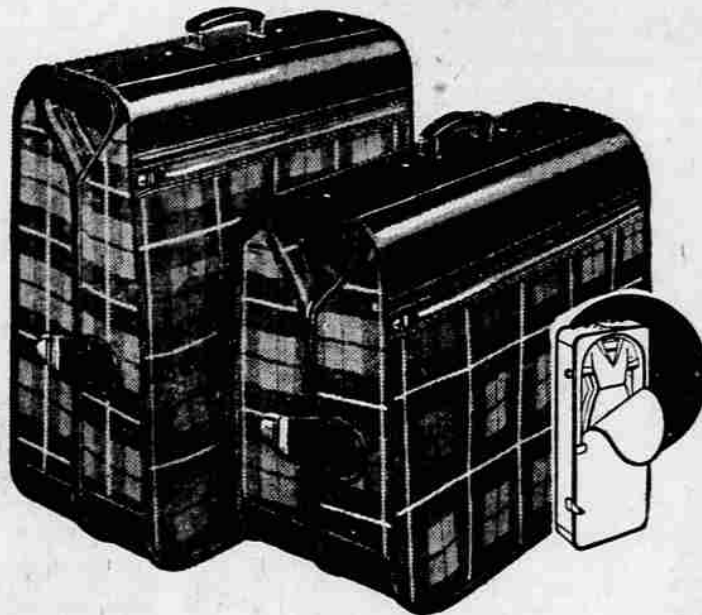
City councilmen earlier last week talked of imposing a 5 per cent tax on hotel and motel rooms here. Brown said the Oregon Supreme Court in 1952 ruled against a 3 per cent city tax on theater admissions in Eugene. He interpreted the decision as having the same application to a proposed hotel tax here.



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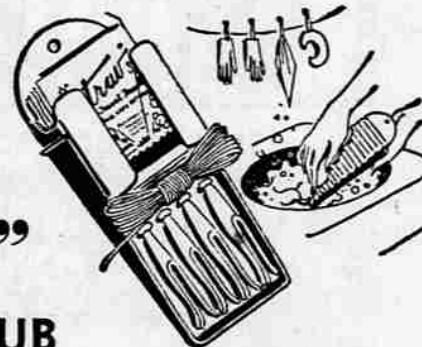


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