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 case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Marilyn V. – Bill is such a disappointment to me.

Bill V. – She is partly to blame.

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Marilyn V. – I have been a widow for 15 years and have worked hard to raise my son to be a decent, worthwhile man. Now it looks as though all my efforts have been in vain.

My son, Bill, is 22 and has gotten involved with a 17-year-old girl of very bad reputation. I did my best to talk him out of this affair, but nothing helped. Now the girl is pregnant and he wants to marry her.

I know Bill can't be happy with this girl. She is nothing but a little tramp. I am positive he can't be sure this expected child is his. This girl isn't going to change after marriage. She comes of a terrible family and doesn't know how to live a decent life. I am heartbroken. He is such a disappointment to me.

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Bill V. – I don't want to hurt Mother, but she doesn't realize that she is partly to blame for this whole affair. She kept me tied to her apron strings. She never gave me the freedom other fellows have. She kept telling me how I mustn't get involved with anyone who didn't "rate" in her books.

As a result I was afraid to go out with girls. When I met Gladys she made a play for me and I couldn't resist her. I know other guys were involved with her, but managed to duck out of the affair in time. I was just a sitting duck.

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The Council: Marilyn blames her son for disappointing her and Bill blames his mother for not having done the right thing – and neither of these things is important or pertinent to the present situation. They should both cast out blame and fault-finding.

The only issue up for discussion is whether or not Bill and Gladys can make a decent marriage and a proper home for the expected child.

Our feeling is that they can't do that as long as Bill feels he has been a "sitting duck." The girl may feel the same way about Bill and may have hoodwinked him into the marriage promise. Good marriages aren't based on tricks or traps.

Possibly Bill has more affection for Gladys than he cares to admit. His mother's sharp criticism may put him on the defensive and he may tell her he is hopelessly trapped when actually he wants Gladys and the child he is convinced is his.

If this is the case Bill must take a more realistic look at his situation. A girl of 17 who has been sexually promiscuous will not change by the mere fact of marriage. She needs help in becoming morally and emotionally rehabilitated. A clergyman and psychiatrist or psychiatric social worker will be needed to help put Gladys on the road toward decent living. It is most unlikely that Bill can do it by himself.

Marilyn is wrong to set certain terms as a kind of reward for her sacrifices for Bill. If she has done her best to instill good standards in her son, she has done her duty and Bill must take it from there. The life he creates from now on is his own and he cannot act purely to gratify her.

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Echo Woman Dies As Jeep Overturns

Echo –UPI– A 41-year-old woman was killed Wednesday when her jeep overturned on a private road 9½ miles southeast of here.

The woman was Mrs. Evelyn Lucille Johnson of Echo. She worked as a cook for Tony Cunha, a rancher. Her husband, Billy Gene Johnson, also is employed by Cunha.

The accident happened at 2:30 p.m. and the body was not discovered until 3½ hours later. State police said they were not listing it as a traffic fatality since the accident happened on a private road.

NOTED PAINTER DIES

Stamford, Conn. –UPI– Delos Palmer, 70, a noted portrait painter whose paintings were exhibited throughout the United States, was found dead in his studio here Wednesday.

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