

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

Stanley P.—Is she a wife recently married off to the youngest of our three children or a playgirl?

Catherine P.—He just missed his housekeeper.

Stanley P.—My wife and I married, my wife has been a care in our early 50s and we different woman. She took up

with a group of women who do nothing all day but play cards or go out to shows or the race tracks. They drink cocktails together and then come home and take a TV dinner out of the freezer. I haven't had a decent meal in months.

Most of the time when I come home, the house is empty. Sometimes she runs out right after dinner for a card game or to spend the evening at the home of one of the "girls." Is she a wife or a playgirl?

Catherine P.—Stan is waking up pretty late. I had the impression that he never wanted a wife—only a housekeeper.

I've had more fun in the last few months than I've had in my whole married life. Stan never spent a cent on me. He didn't think a wife was supposed to have anything except to wash and a house to clean. When I wanted entertainment he told me to sit and look at TV. I feel I've done my duty as a mother and now I have a right to my freedom. I have not noticed that Stan has lost any weight in spite of the fact that he complains I don't feed him. I also keep my house clean and neat—even when I'm away nearly all day.

The Council: If a small part of the effort that has gone into blame and hurt feelings were salvaged by Stanley and Catherine for



WAR CRIMINAL NABBED—Israeli security services have found and arrested Adolf Eichmann, above, one of the most infamous of the Nazi war criminals. Eichmann has been accused of ordering the extermination of about 6 million Jews before and during World War II. Eichmann's arrest was announced in Jerusalem. —(UPI Telephoto)

some constructive steps, they might find themselves on the road to a happier existence. When Stanley has come home to an empty house, he has undoubtedly sat around brooding and feeling sorry for himself. He has greeted his wife with an angry face and ugly words—making her remember the many times she

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worked hard all day and received little or no appreciation in the end.

But what would happen if he decided to surprise her by cooking a simple dinner and setting the table attractively for the two of them? And then, suppose he greeted her with a smile, a kiss and hug instead of a reprimand? Or suppose he suggested an evening out—as if they were a young dating couple?

We think that Catherine would be far happier about getting home early, far less interested in cocktails and cards if she knew a pleasant, loving husband awaited her.

On the other hand, Catherine should recognize that she would be much happier if she could rid herself of her urge for a kind of vengeance for the past. We have a feeling that she and the "girls" get a special pleasure out of their escapades simply because they are causing their husbands inconvenience. This kind of pleasure loses its flavor quickly and an undercurrent of bitterness reveals itself in bickering and gossip among the women.

Catherine should make an attempt to find a social circle in which husbands participate. Both she and Stanley will find the experience fulfilling.

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