



WRITING HER COLUMN—Mrs. John F. Kennedy, wife of the Democratic presidential candidate, works at a typewriter at her home in Washington writing a weekly column called "Campaign Wife," which the Democratic National Committee distributes. (UPI Telephoto)

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. 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.

Mabel N. — I don't want to give Joe up again.

Mrs. L. J. — But he misses his foster home.

Mabel N. — I am 25 and the mother of a 7-year-old son. Shortly after Joe was born my husband started drinking and we split up.

I asked my mother to take care of Joe while I went to work, but she said she couldn't because she was too old and sick. I put him in a foster home and visited him on week ends. The people were nice to him and he became very attached to them.

A year ago I got a good job working nights. I took Joe from the foster home and my mother cares for him at night. He is sleeping most of the time, but she says he is a problem and she wants me to give him back to the foster home. The people want him back, but I don't want to give him up again.

Mrs. L. J. — My daughter doesn't realize what it means for an elderly woman to care for an active little boy. When I tell him to go to bed and he doesn't want to go, I must shout and run after him. I raised five children and that's enough.

Aside from that the boy is a terrible problem. He has taken money from my bag and my daughter's. I think he misses the people he used to stay with. He used to talk a lot about his "daddy," but has stopped that now.

Mabel doesn't want to tell the social worker about the trouble we're having because she's afraid Joe will be taken away.

The Council: This problem is heartbreaking for everyone involved, but probably most for the little boy, who was shunted from a normal, happy home to an unsatisfactory one.

To have her son transferred back to her, Mabel must have pressured her mother into telling the social worker she would be glad to take care of the child in the evenings. Now she is concealing some important information — and it can only be damaging to the child.

We do not know whether or not it is necessarily the best thing for this child to be sent back to the foster home. But one thing is certain. Some solution must be found to his serious unhappiness. A 7-year-old who consistently steals is a very sad young man and his future prospects aren't very good.

It is natural for Mabel to want her son with her. Possibly she was becoming a little jealous of the close ties between the boy and his foster parents and reasoned that unless he came to live with her he would never grow to love her as his mother.

This may happen in some cases while the child is young or an adolescent. But when he reaches maturity, if he has been brought up in a happy home, he learns that it was true love that forced his mother to put him in the good home rather than keep him with her when she could not give him the same advantages.

Mabel should recognize that it is no disgrace or reflection on her that her child has reacted badly to his new home. The boy has had a severe emotional shock, and it is impossible under the present conditions for Mabel to remedy this.

The social agency involved is Mabel's and the boy's best friend in this case. But help can't be gotten unless Mabel is honest about her problem.

Chile To Receive Optical Equipment

Portland — (UPI) — Dr. Byron Woodruff of Roseburg, president of the Oregon Optometric Association, has presented the Red Cross with \$25,400 worth of equipment for disaster-struck citizens of Chile.

The equipment, including lenses, frames and spectacle cases, was gathered by OOA members throughout Oregon. The project started two months ago following earthquakes in the South American country. It was initiated by Dr. William Thompson, Medford optometrist.

McNeil Discusses Park, Shop Program

Don McNeil, manager of the Medford Chamber of Commerce, discussed Medford's Park and Shop program at a meeting of the Bend Chamber of Commerce this morning.

The program has been in operation in Medford for about two years, and is considered successful. It was developed to help relieve the downtown parking congestion.

McNeil has discussed the program, and how it works, with other chambers in the state.

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