

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.

Louise A.—I can't bear being uprooted again. Alfred A.—Is she with me or against me?

Louise A.—A woman marries for a home, but I'm beginning to feel that the only way I'll ever get a home is to get unmarried. Imagine moving five times in ten years, and now Alfred asks me to pack again.

I feel within my rights to take a firm stand now. Either he finds some other work or he moves without me and the children, even if it leads to a legal separation. If he really loved us he wouldn't uproot us every time we start to feel like part of a neighborhood.

Think of what it means to me and the children to have to start making new friends again. Al Junior is particularly timid and it was such a victory for him to be admitted to the Cub Scout troop here.

I'm tired of trying to fit old curtains on new windows and planting things I can never watch grow. At last I have the things that really matter—a home and friends. Alfred shouldn't ask me to leave them again.

Alfred A.—Is Louise acting like a wife or a Chamber of Commerce? I agree that our present setup is great, but I've been offered the assistant manager's berth in a brand new factory in Arkansas, while here I'm a floor foreman. It's a big step for me, and she should be jumping for joy.

While it's true we've moved pretty often, the first two homes were to have more room for the children. We didn't leave our home state until I started to work for this company six years ago. They have branch offices and want you to circulate for about 15 years before they assign you to one where you can hope to put down stakes.

Louise knows this. It may be hard on her and the kids to have to drop old ties and dig up new ones every few years, but if she'll only play along with the company another ten years or so, her reward will come. She'll be the wife of a regional executive. And regional executives in our outfit are resident executives. They stay put.

Whatever is good for me is good for Louise and the children. If she goes back on me now, she'll be reneging as both a wife and a mother.

The Council: Before making her final decision, Louise must be reminded of the true meaning of the word "home." About 2,000 years ago, a roving Roman named Pliny said it was "where the heart is."

So if Louise stays behind and ends her marriage in order to hold on to a home, she may find herself with only a house, a building, a shelter, but no "home." In this highly mobile age where opportunity can spring up in any section of the country, a man on the way up must seize it. Instead of fretting too much about the discombobulation, Louise might take a good look at the trust and hope in Alfred's eyes. That should make her take a deep breath, count three and then grin, "Here we go again!"

Of course the mechanics of moving are hard. And the emotional wrenchings each time are painful. But, as Alfred promises, a settling-down period will come. Meanwhile, there's the compensation of seeing the world, which can make up for the temporary rootlessness, especially for the children.

We hope Louise straightens out her scale of values. At present, she attaches undue weight to curtains, rosebushes and goldfish. All of these are replaceable, even if not duplicable. What a tragedy it would be for her to give up the irreplaceables—Alfred's love for her, a united family for her children—for these! (Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

BLAME POWER LOSS

New York—Loss of power was blamed today for a Staten Island ferry boat accident in which 20 persons were injured. The boat, carrying 1,000 passengers, slammed into a slip at Staten Island Thursday after it had completed its crossing from Manhattan Island. Marine department officials said the ferry's engine suddenly failed and the crew was unable to reverse the propellers to ease the boat toward the slip.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
Topeka, Kan.—Mrs. Connie McKone, wife of one of the two RB47 officers imprisoned in Moscow, saying she is "just waiting, just existing day to day."
"Now Christmas makes it worse. It's what we've been dreaming."

Hollywood—Eddie Fisher, scotching rumors that Elizabeth Taylor faces losing all her teeth:
"Elizabeth just had a couple of teeth filled. But I'm the guy who suffered. I spent six hours in the dental chair undergoing oral surgery."

New York—Computer programmer Donald Englund, stating that one asset of a computer as a teaching machine is that it will never bowl out slow students:
"They (computers) have infinite patience. Don't get emotional."

Hollywood—Actor Clu Gulager, who plays Billy the Kid on television, explaining why Billy is a good guy in the TV series:
"There was a period in his life when Billy did behave himself, and we're using that for the show."

Controversial Antibiotic To Be Studied in Aplastic Anemia

Berkeley, Calif. — (UPI) — Dr. Philip Condit said Thursday the California Department of Public Health soon would begin a survey to determine whether a controversial antibiotic caused any cases of aplastic anemia, which resulted in 405 deaths in California the past eight years.

Condit, head of the department's communicable diseases section, said the drug chloramphenicol has been linked with aplastic anemia, an almost incurable disease in which blood building tissue in bone marrow is destroyed.

But, he said, there are other causes of aplastic anemia. As yet it is not known how many of the fatal cases of the disease were connected with chloramphenicol (marketed under the name, chloromycetin).

An extraordinarily effective "wide-spectrum" antibiotic, chloramphenicol has been under a cloud since the first deaths were reported in 1952. The Federal Food and Drug Commission ordered manufacturer Park-Davis Co. to label the drug hazardous when shipped to druggists. It is illegal for anyone but a physician to prescribe it.

Because of its tremendous effectiveness, doctors have used it extensively for both major and minor ills. The American Medical Association has warned the drug should not be used for any but the most serious illnesses.

But Condit said "Doctors have prescribed this drug apparently without adequate consideration to its hazards."

"There is," he said, "a need for continuing awareness on the part of the physician as to the potential danger associated with the use of chloramphenicol."

It should be used with caution, and not prescribed for patients with relatively minor infections where another antibiotic would be equally effective," Condit added.

He said the survey, to begin in about a month would attempt to determine the role of the drug in aplastic anemia deaths in California.

"Thus far," Condit said, "there simply is no method of

providing complete and accurate data."

Dr. Malcolm Merrill, head of the Department of Public Health, has discussed chloramphenicol with the California Medical Association, which has agreed to support the survey.

The first, he said, would be legislation limiting the amount of chloramphenicol allowed in a prescription. A minimum time limit also would be set for the use of each prescribed dosage.

Condit said another method would be to put a danger label on the vial or bottle which is received by the patient. At present, only the pharmacist receives such warning.

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RESEARCH MAN DIES
Stockbridge, Mass. — (UPI) — Dr. David Rapaport, 49, former chairman of research of the Meninger Foundation in Topeka, Kan., died Wednesday.

EX-CHAIRMEN DIES
Philadelphia — (UPI) — Joseph S. Hildeth, 82, former chairman of the Chilton Publishing Co., died Wednesday.

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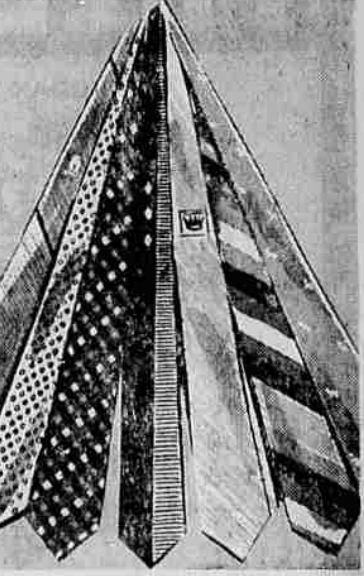
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