

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.

Charlotte F. — I feel like a machine, not a person. I must get away.

Leo F. — I can't get away from my job. Why should Charlotte?

Charlotte F. — We're married 12 years and have four children, three in school and a 2-year-old toddler. Lately I've felt so grouchy I don't know how my husband and children put up with me.

Even though I get a good night's sleep and am in good health, I wake up tired. I drag myself through all the motions of a homemaker and mother, even to forcing a few smiles for the benefit of Leo and the kids.

But I'm not enjoying anything! My food has no taste, the cute things the children say don't really register, and I wonder what's happened to my pep.

I don't know where to go or for how long. All I know is I can't get straightened out going around in circles this way.

Leo F. Running out is no answer. I get the same feeling of being pushed, and hurrying around and getting nowhere, but I stick to my work in the grocery store and after a while the feelings go away.

Charlotte F. is too conscientious. She's a perfectionist. The baby's white shoes get polished three and four times a day. The pots and pans in the kitchen shine like a row of mirrors. All that takes a toll on her pep, and leaves less for the kids and me.

I tell her to take a nap each afternoon during the baby's rest. Maybe that'd perk her up. But instead she opens the sewing machine, irons curtains or makes out lists of what what she plans to do the next day.

I know Charlotte loves me and the children. She can show it the way I do, by sticking to her job.

The Council — Both Charlotte and Leo would be amazed at what just 24 hours Absent With Leave could do for this weary wife and mother. Instead of telling Charlotte to get back on the track ("telling," by itself, is useless), Leo could perform the rescue operation by offering her a whole beautiful weekend of solitude, silence and separation from kith and kin and kitchen!

She'd come back a new woman. After "sleeping it off," she'd be able to commune with herself, "hear herself think," and survey her life from the outside looking in instead of from the bottom of a heap of chores which keep her from seeing the full outline of things. At present she is too drained and depleted to sort out what's important.

Most husbands can work out this sort of "leave" for a hard-pressed homemaker. It just never dawns on them, alas, that this is the answer for much grumpiness, depression and inefficiency. The gal feels too "driven" and sees no relief in view. Breaking it up with a short "recess" gives her a breather.

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School News

Oak Grove School

Reporters Evelyn Wilson, Robert Myers, Mark Wright, Mike Bryant, Vicki Heath, Paula Betz, Craig Bryant, Donald Wilson and Max Higginbotham.

In Mrs. Nancy Gustafson's first grade room we have been waiting for Christmas to arrive. We made Christmas trees and decorated them and placed on our windows. We made angels out of crepe paper and foil.

Mr. and Mrs. McMahan brought us a Christmas tree for our room. We decorated it with chains, bells, and popcorn.

We drew names for gift exchange. We each made a Christmas stocking and Santa must have visited our room one night, because we found a candy cane in each stocking.

In science, we have been studying weather. Donna Harris gave an interesting report on fog; David DeCarlow,

wind; Ricky Bailey, rain; Lola Beency, the thermometer, and Mark Carr, clothing worn in winter.

In social studies and penmanship we have been learning how to write thank you notes.

Mrs. Kathleen Wilson's third grade room's part in the Christmas program was about Christmas greenery. We sang some songs and some dancers did a dance.

We fixed the hall bulletin board. Mark Whitney made a big Santa Claus and he put a star Santa Claus on a Christmas tree. Ronjean Miner made the star. Ingrid Hoefle made a Santa Claus for our room. Vickie Heath made a snowman for our door.

We have been giving book reports in our room. We had to tell the title, author, the main characters, and the part we liked best. We showed a picture of our favorite part and told the rest of the class why we thought they would

like it. We got a soccer ball and a basketball for our room.

In Mrs. Ruth Dunn's second grade room we are getting ready for Christmas. We made pictures to decorate the room. We have also made angel and star tree ornaments. We had a small and a large Christmas tree in our room.

In Mrs. Ruth Urie's fourth grade room the Christmas tree looks nice. We had all of our presents under it, and had our room party Friday, Dec. 23.

We have a little bulletin board and have some winter scenes on it. We had a play Dec. 21.

The first, second, and third grades at Oak Grove school had a Christmas program Wednesday, Dec. 21.

We had a matinee in the afternoon, and a program at night.

Some were bell ringers, and there was a voice choir and a singing choir.

Santa Claus was there in the afternoon and gave candy to the children.

The children of Oak Grove school saw interesting things

from India at the National School assembly Dec. 15.

An interesting thing was a 12-foot tiger shot in India by Mr. Willet, the man who brought the things for us to see.

He showed us how the women wear their dresses. Other things he showed and explained were instrumental things such as pipes and drums used in music, arrows, knives, jewelry, and pots and pans.

Friday, Dec. 23, the students of Oak Grove school met in the gymnasium and gathered around the Christmas tree, donated and decorated by the PTA, to sing Christmas carols.

SIXTH VICTIM DIES

Indianapolis, Ind. — (UPI) — Ronald Coleman, 14, Monday became the sixth member of his family to die of a fire which swept their Hartford City, Ind., home last Thursday.

Ronald died two days after his mother and four brothers and sisters were buried in Twin Hills cemetery in Pennville, Ind. The flash fire was caused by an exploding jar of gasoline.

Kennedy's Program To Face Test in House Next Week

Washington — (UPI) — Democratic liberals hope President-elect John F. Kennedy can offset the increased strength of the conservative bloc in the House by vigorous use of his presidential powers — patronage, persuasion and public pressure.

A battle on the House floor next week will provide an immediate test of whether Kennedy has a chance to push much of his legislative program through Congress.

The struggle will come over efforts to wrest control of the powerful House rules committee from a conservative coalition which has dominated it for the past two decades.

Power Over Bills
Because of its power to decide which bills the House can take up, the 12-man rules committee poses the number one congressional threat to Kennedy's five-point program of liberal legislation.

Liberals hope to break the rules committee's stranglehold on legislation by purging one of the southern Democrats or adding another member who would give the liberals the strength to out-vote the conservatives.

Kennedy supporters have high hopes of keeping the prospects for the President-elect's proposals alive by winning the procedural fight for control of the rules committee.

49 Japanese Deaths Attributed to Bomb

Hiroshima, Japan — (UPI) — The Hiroshima Atomic Disease hospital said today that 49 persons died during the first 11 months of 1960 from lingering effects of radiation caused by the atomic bomb dropped here more than 15 years ago.

The hospital reported that 21 of the victims suffered blood disorders, such as leukemia and anemia. The others died of liver diseases and cancer.

In the same period last year, the hospital reported 38 deaths attributed to the after-effects of the bombing.

But even if this initial fight is won, Kennedy probably will have to be satisfied with compromise legislation in most, if not all, the five domestic areas to which he has assigned top priority.

Kennedy's priority program calls for expansion of slum clearance and other federal housing programs, expansion of the Social Security program into the field of medical care, an increase in the \$1-an-hour federal minimum wage with expanded coverage and federal aid for education and for communities suffering from chronic unemployment.

Kennedy's congressional supporters foresee less trouble in the relatively liberal Senate than in the House.

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