

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.

Mrs. N.A. - They decided Peter is to be their only child. Marcella G. - Mother will have to be content with an only grandchild.

Mrs. N.A. - Leaving aside my personal opinions, I'm puzzled by the deliberate, calm decision of my daughter and her husband to limit their family to the one child they have now. Peter is 4 and an absolute treasure. You'd think they'd want "more of a good thing!"

Marcella's my only child and, naturally, I assumed she'd want her son to have the brothers and sisters she never had. Her husband is a government employee and their income is secure, so it's not that they can't afford more children.

In my own case, we wanted another child but none came. It was extremely hard raising Marcella without other youngsters in the home.

As the mother of an only child, I'm trying to accept the surprise of an only grandchild, too.

Marcella G. - When Charles and I were married seven years ago, I was 20 and still in college. I left school to be with him in Missouri where he was earning his degree in Osteopathic Medicine. Peter was born after we'd returned East where Charles held a research position with the Health Department.

While we haven't burdened my mother with the blow-by-blow details, Peter hasn't been an easy baby to raise. He's extremely high-strung, and as an infant had repeated attacks of colic. Now, as a preschooler, he's a ball of energy and a rapid-fire chatterbox.

Charles is one of five children and yet, today, he never sees any of them. Growing up, he told me, he might just as well have been an only child, because the others had such different interests and temperaments. We think that a child's development depends upon the watchfulness and love of his parents, not on brothers and sisters.

I hope to return to college. Charles' work may lead us soon to an Australian test-station. In terms of what's best for us three, we decided to "call it a family" now.

The Council: In this modern day, Marcella and Charles can plan the size of their family with the same intent as travel directors charting a cruise - to provide a chance for real fulfillment for all passengers. If they feel this important goal can best be reached by traveling "light," Mrs. A. can only wish them Bon Voyage and enjoy the stopovers through the years.

It's unusual for a young pair to be so clear-headed about their own limitations. But, as Marcella says, a child's successful growth depends principally upon the amount of loving attention he gets from his father and mother. Companionship can be "imported" via invitations to neighbors, and classmates. Peter can be taught to share cookies, crayons, and the spotlight, in that way.

Alert to the pitfalls, the G's are also aware of the advantages for an only child. Their tight little world is a windy unit. Life is easily shared, as parents and child slip off to the ballet or a ski-class. Time and strength need not be fragmented and doled out.

The choice for Marcella was: Have more babies to please others or stop now, to "realize" ourselves. In that light, Mrs. A. may eventually be pleased with the outcome.

Laos Troops Battle Advancing Rebels

Vientiane, Laos - (UPI) - Government forces opened up with mortars Saturday to try to wipe out a communist-led rebel pocket only 10 miles north of this Laotian capital city.

Government forces ringed the area and began hurling mortar shells on the suspected guerilla hideout after receiving reports the Pathet Lao rebels had been harassing traffic on a road in the area in a bold gesture against the pro-Western government of Premier Prince Boun Oum in Vientiane. Rebel radio broadcasts boasted the Reds were "very active" both in the interior and "even around Vientiane."

The shelling occurred as the government announced failure in efforts to arrange peace talks with the Pathet Lao. The rebels refused to meet with anyone in the Boun Oum regime.

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4 8-oz. cans **99¢**

2 12-oz. cans **69¢**

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Cuts in Syrup
2 No. 303 cans **29¢**

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DEVILED HAM
4 1/2-oz. can **39¢**

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CHINESE NOODLES
No. 2 1/2 can **29¢**

CHUN KING
BEAN SPROUTS
2 No. 303 cans **33¢**

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BLACK PEPPER
2-oz. can **25¢**

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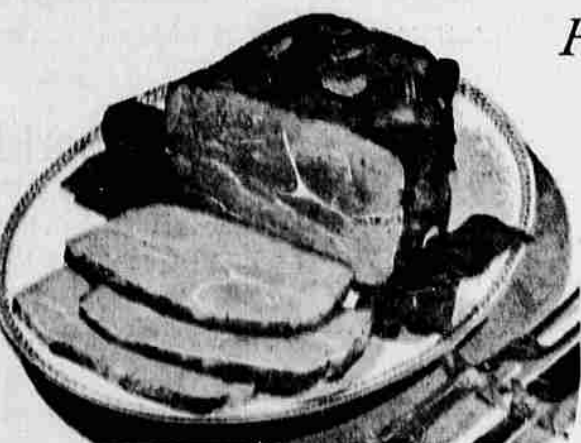
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