

Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychologist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a woman's officer 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 people and counselors.

Nita G. - I'm pregnant and in a terrible predicament. Howard J. - She can divorce him and marry me. We love each other.

Nita G. - For his sister's sake, my husband said that her son Howard could stay in our home until he got settled in New York. Howard is 19 and came here from Canada four months ago.

Shortly after his arrival, my husband was taken to the hospital for a heart condition. I realize now that Howard should have moved out or returned home. Whatever led us to this, the fact is that I find myself pregnant. And my husband is returning from his convalescence in a week.

Should I throw myself on his mercy, or try to fool him?

Howard J. - As soon as my uncle can stand the shock, I want Nita to confess that she and I love each other. I'm sorry for Uncle Clem. He's been wonderful to me and my family. But he's 15 years older than Nita, and he knows she's been unhappy. If not for his illness, she'd have asked for a divorce.

Once she's free, Nita and I can move out West as husband and wife and give the baby a normal home. I know this puts us both in a terrible light. I certainly didn't intend hurting my uncle this way.

What's the most human way to handle this mess?

The Council: Howard sums things up correctly with the word "mess." Although it grew from animal passions, he takes a "human way" to handle it out.

Of the four people who are affected and hurt by this turn of events, Nita's husband is likely to suffer the heaviest blow. First, the shock of double betrayal, then the choice to be made between divorce and condonation or condonation and remarriage.

It's too late for sermons. And the running brooks that lead to the torrent of calamity are too deep and too numerous for tracing. We must proceed from the present sad realities, with a few suggestions which are based upon Nita's relations with her husband.

Certainly confession would be the best bet in the long run, but the timing and the handling of this will require the aid of the family doctor and possibly a clergyman or social worker. Perhaps Nita's husband will find it in his heart to forgive, in recognition of human frailty against superhuman temptation. Then, adopting the baby as a member of his childless family, he can clothe the future with a semblance of stability.

If the aggrieved husband refuses to condone, other possibilities are for him to divorce his wife so that she may marry Howard for the baby's sake. Or Nita, in a sober reconsideration of Howard vs. Husband, might offer to renounce the former and, in a benediction of the flesh-and-blood reminder, give up the child for adoption. At any rate, Howard is "persona non grata" around the G. home, and had best leave fast. Nita's idea of "fooling" her husband about the child would never give her a moment's peace. Mr. G. may not fool easily, and besides, there's Howard who knows differently.

For the sake of the man with the weak heart, and the baby with weak parents, we hope this lapse can be resolved constructively. But Nita must know that it will take a lifetime of "proving" for any man - her husband, Howard, or any subsequent lover - ever to trust her again.

USIA Official Killed In Laos Plane Crash

Washington - 67 - The U. S. Information Agency said Saturday that one of its officials in Laos, Francis P. Corrigan Jr., was killed Saturday when a plane in which he was flying crashed on takeoff from a village there.

Corrigan, 35, was in charge of the USIA program in four northern provinces of Laos. The USIA here said he was on a routine mission, checking motion picture projectors and distributing film, when the mishap occurred.

BRISTOL APPOINTED

Salem - 67 - Gov. Mark Hatfield Friday appointed Fayette I. Bristol, former state representative from Grant's Pass, to the governing board of the State Geology and Mineral Industries department.

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