

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

ACCORDING to John McPhaul, a Chicago news photographer who was assigned to cover a reunion of the nuclear physicists who achieved the first self-sustaining chain reaction. "Now, fellows," said the cameraman patronizingly to eminent scientists Vannevar Bush, Enrico Fermi, and Harold C. Urey. "I got three pictures in mind. First: you guys putting the atom in the machine. Second: splitting the atom. And finally: all of you grouped around looking at the pieces. Let's go!"



If you can believe Allen and Ross, a country club attendant stepped up to Ex-President Eisenhower in the locker room and asked, "Do you notice anything different since you left the White House?" "Yes," was the rueful answer. "A lot more golfers are beating me."

A book publisher's young son, accustomed to hearing practically nothing but the trade chatter of authors and editors, greeted the garbage collector with a cheery, "Hi, neighbor! Your novel finished yet?" The garbage man's answer was, "I don't write 'em, sonny. I just throw them out."

Leo Durocher tells of the spring day he asked a raw baseball rookie to name his best playing position. The rookie answered, "Kinda bent over, like this."

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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 a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Mrs. J. W. — What does a clergyman know about marriage troubles?

Mrs. O. L. — Mine is better than a psychiatrist. He helped us.

Mrs. J. W. — Should a minister think he can take the place of a psychiatrist? How can he possibly be qualified?

My husband and I are drifting further and further apart. We married in our teens and now, six years and two babies later, we feel like strangers to each other. He doesn't really know me as a person and as for him, all I knew or cared about was that he was president of the senior class in high school and only had eyes for me. I never dated anyone else. Now we feel trapped.

In discussing this with our clergyman, I mentioned the fact that Jack and I have discontinued marital relations. I thought he'd recommend a doctor. Instead he asked me to send Jack to talk to him. That sounds like a waste of time. But my friends say this is common practice.

Mrs. O. L. — I'm a friend of Mrs. W. and her family. She's just behind the times if she thinks clergymen stick in their parsonages and never venture forth into the world. Our minister works with delinquent boys and ex-prisoners. You can tell him anything. Nothing shocks him. And he hands out good advice which sets you on the best path right away. Mrs. W. would waste lots of time with a psychiatrist. Her pastor should be able to help her from the very first interview. If not, I'll arrange for her to see my minister.

We had a terrible family problem. Our college daughter came home with wild ideas about free love and why it isn't sin. She threatened to disappear if we blocked her plans. With the Rev. H., she realized that she couldn't go through with an affair. She had just wanted to shock us.

The Council: Mrs. L. is wrong to think that a clergyman can replace a psychiatrist. But Mrs. W. is wrong to think he can't treat and ease family problems with authority. There's a definite area for each of these specialists.

It might be advisable to find out, Mrs. W., whether your minister is one who has received the special training in "pastoral counseling," now offered under the joint auspices of theological seminaries and the psychiatry departments of medical colleges.

And Lesson Number One for would-be pastoral counselors is to recognize cases which require medical and psychiatric treatment. Just as a cancer may be worsened by treating it as an allergy, so a neurosis or psychosis may grow worse by regarding it as a matter of attitude.

Mrs. L.'s pastor may really have helped her wayward daughter. If not, her rebelliousness may show itself soon in another harmful way.

There's your answer, Mrs. W. Many clergymen these days are qualified to deal with family problems—more qualified, in fact, than heretofore. Union Theological Seminary in New York, for example, has sponsored a program in psychiatry and religion since 1956 to introduce ministers to the understanding of human behavior afforded by contemporary psychodynamics.

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And a good thing it is, too.

Bank Messenger Robbed of \$100,000

Chicago — Two armed men Monday robbed a bank messenger of a sack of mail he was taking from a post office to his bank.

First reports immediately after the robbery said \$100,000 in registered mail and as much as \$50,000 in cash was involved. A bank official said later the mail was not registered and there was no cash in the sack.

The only money involved was in the form of checks made out for deposit, the bank official said.

Virginians Receive Present Following Four-Year Battle

Richmond, Va. — Former State Sen. John J. Wicker has been bucking the White House and the state of Massachusetts for four years to get the Christmas present he gave today to residents of Virginia.

The Richmond attorney, beaming proudly from behind bed vest and horn-rimmed glasses, finally got the word from presidential aide Arthur Schlesinger Jr. that his one-man war had been won.

"This is the finest Christmas present of all," said Wicker, displaying a letter from Schlesinger admitting that, indeed, Virginia's Berkeley plantation was the scene of

America's first Thanksgiving. It was an admission nothing short of heresy by Massachusetts standards.

Virginians point to historical documents to back up their case that the first Thanksgiving in America was observed on the shores of the James river, about 35 miles from here, more than a year before the pilgrims reached the new world.

Wicker, clad in the costume of a Virginia cavalier, even visited Massachusetts Gov. John A. Volpe last year and tried to convert him to the fact that 38 Virginians celebrated Thanksgiving in

1619. But Volpe resisted with New England stubbornness. When President Kennedy issued his 1962 Thanksgiving proclamation crediting the pilgrims of Plymouth, Mass., with celebrating the first Thanksgiving in 1621, Wicker decided that was the last straw.

Stolen Car Case Is Solved by Telephone

The Jackson county sheriff's office solved a crime by telephone Sunday.

Deputies received a call that a car reported stolen earlier from Mrs. Dolly Milne, route 3, box 553, Everett,

Wash., was at Rogue River. A deputy was dispatched and he recovered the car and arrested Richard Dix McCall, Everett, Wash. McCall is being held in the county jail on larceny charges.

"Your presidential proclamation erroneously credits Massachusetts with America's first Thanksgiving," Wicker wired the President. "Virginia's claim was officially recognized by President Abraham Lincoln nearly a century ago."

Unconquerable Bias
Schlesinger's letter assured Wicker he was "quite right," and I can only plead an unconquerable New England bias on the part of the White House staff. . . I can assure you that the error will not be repeated in the future."

Wicker, with a "that-settles-that" expression, had his telegram and Schlesinger's letter neatly framed and presented the documents to Gov. Albert S. Harrison.

"You have rendered a very valuable service to the Commonwealth of Virginia," Harrison told the ex-legislator.

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