

**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. (Copyright 1963—General Features Corp.)

Amy R. - I want to stay in the city.  
Jack C. - I've always wanted to live in the country.

Amy R. - Jack and I are too much in love to let this matter come between us or break us up. But we each have rather strong leanings on where we'd like to live after our marriage, and unfortunately we lean in opposite directions. Maybe The Council can arbitrate.

The trouble is Jack has never lived in the country and I have. It's dead and stodgy. Anyone with a new idea is likely to be run out of town. I purposely chose a college smack in the heart of New York City and after graduation I looked for a job near Grand Central Station, right in the heart of things. We both work in midtown. Why waste time commuting? And why leave all the excitement of the Big Town for the humdrum life of a hick?

Jack C. - Amy can't get rid of her prejudice against small town living. She forgets that things have changed. My sister and her family live upstate near Lake George and, believe me, they can run rings around us for up-to-date-ness. She tells me what to watch for in next month's magazines and who's doing a good job as Ambassador and why the new musicals aren't prospering.

I feel if we settle in a quiet suburb we'll still have all the cultural advantages of the city, plus a healthier life. There's better air, nicer scenery, less pressure. You feel closer to nature, and closer to people.

There are no Hicks any more. The people in my sister's neighborhood are as hip to new inventions and new methods as any city slicker.

The Council - Something about the above debate set us off on a tangent toting up how few things, really, a man can have any free will to decide. Where to live, of course, ought to be one of them but in many cases isn't, due to job, income, health and other "dictators." At present, Amy is living where she chooses, Jack isn't. Since they plan to live together happily for ever and ever, obviously each will have to surrender some of that freedom of residence. Else, this bride and groom will live happily never after.

We address Amy. Add the many things a man has no say about (a woman, neither for that matter): He can't pick his parents, his birthday, his native-land, his religion, his race, his financial backing. What's left? Ideally, he has some "say" in two areas: his work, and his marriage. Other "freedoms," minors ones, may have to be sacrificed in the interests of those two big ones.

That's why we suggest that Amy do the greater giving in. Let Jack exercise one of his few rights of choice, especially since he has idealized country living in his own mind. Let him see for himself. At the same time, Amy may be in for some eye-opening surprises, too. Her carefully codified prejudices may dissolve in the neon lights and streamlined zip of the new suburbs.

Some observers find that the choice between city and country living boils down to one's willingness to commute. Otherwise, via the huge shopping centers, television, mechanized farms, the city mouse and the country mouse are equally hip. Others who have tried both ends of the line claim, as does Amy, that there is more intellectual stimulation in the city. But more headaches, too. Jack would counter:

Surely there's a perch, not too central, not too isolated, but just right, for this pair to settle on.

**Steps Taken To Stop Mass Berlin Escape**

Berlin (AP)—East German Communists set up a heavy machinegun covering a block off East-West Berlin street tunnel Saturday to prevent any mass escape by East Berliners attending a sporting event near the wall today.

The tunnel is under the elevated railway lines running between East Berlin and the French sector of West Berlin and was part of Glienkestrasse before the Communists blocked it off when the anti-refugee wall went up Aug. 13, 1961.

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