

Divorce Laws Remain Problem 411 Years After King Henry VIII

By ROBERT MUSEL
 United Press International
 London — King Henry VIII, a cunning and promiscuous monarch, had such trouble with England's stern divorce laws even in the days when sovereigns ruled by divine right, that he had to have some of his six wives' heads chopped off to get rid of them.

Before he finally commanded Anne Boleyn to submit her pretty neck to the headman's axe he went to tortuous lengths to have his marriage to her declared invalid. His

straight-faced grounds were that he had slept with her sister before their wedding, hence he was practically a blood relation.

The case of "Bluff King Hal" and his troubles with the mother of the first Queen Elizabeth were raised in the House of Commons recently by Labor Party Member Leo Abse in the first major parliamentary attempt to reform Britain's divorce laws in 25 years.

Somewhat plaintively Abse told the House that it could

hardly accuse him of rushing things since one of the main points of his bill — to make long separation a ground for divorce — had been originally recommended by a committee headed by the first Archbishop of Canterbury 411 years ago in 1552.

Fight for Divorce
 Abse's measure is called "The Matrimonial Causes and Reconciliation Bill." A 46-year-old lawyer from Pontypool in Wales, he decided to take on the strong religious

and women's organization lobby which has always resisted any attempt to change the existing divorce laws. They permit divorce only for adultery, desertion, insanity and cruelty.

To the surprise of his supporters the bill had only minor opposition in the House on its second reading and was sent to a committee for further discussion. No one underestimates the strength of the gathering opposition but legislative observers believe Abse has a chance of getting

through the major "reconciliation" principle of his bill.

This would modify the present rule regarding what is known as condonation. If a husband considers his wife guilty of adultery but continues to have relations with her he has, in the eyes of the law, "condoned" her offense and cannot use it as grounds for divorce.

Choice Is Clear
 Back in 1955 a royal commission which studied evidence on the divorce laws for many months decided this

was one of the big obstacles to reconciliation. Husbands (or wives) who suspected their partners of infidelity rushed immediately to lawyers because, as the law stood, they either had to forgive forthwith or stop living together as man and wife.

At the same time if they happened to meet in a lawyer's office or with a marriage guidance counselor to discuss their problems there was always a chance they might be charged with collusion — conspiring to arrange a divorce.

Under Abse's bill couples who part because one or the other feels the partner has been adulterous or cruel would be able to come together again for a sort of "second honeymoon" period of a month to see if they could work things out. This would not prejudice the original grounds on which they had decided to seek divorce.

And they would be enabled to discuss their problems together and openly

with lawyers or advisers without any danger of being accused of collusion.

Bill May Pass
 This much of Abse's bill may pass, if in modified form. But he himself considers that the real fight will come on another clause which would permit a marriage to be dissolved if the couple has been living apart for seven years.

The present law permits only the deserted partner to sue for divorce. In many cases, due to religious convictions, financial reasons or

simply spite, the deserted party does not wish the marriage ended.

Thus his or her mate is tied forever — unable to marry and often, as it developed in the debate, forced to live in sin and raise illegitimate children.

"Last year's Ministry of Health report," said Abse, "indicated that about a third of the illegitimate children born in this country annually — about 37,000 — are born to cohabiting parents who are apparently living in permanent union but are unmarried."

"It is therefore reasonable to assume that a large proportion of cohabiting parents would get married if they were not under the disability of being refused a divorce from a previous partner."

Children Illegitimate
 He said statistics indicated there are between 100,000 and 200,000 illegitimate children of such unions "brought up in an atmosphere of deceit, insecurity and guilt."

Laborite John Parker, who said he felt it ought to be made harder to get married, thought Abse's figures too low.

"Other statistics show," he said, "that there are at least three million people in this country who were born illegitimate. About a million of them are either adopted or legitimated by the subsequent marriage of their parents. But that still leaves about two millions persons who are illegitimate."

Parker said that of this group it was estimated the 800,000 children lived or were living with parents who could not marry because of the present divorce laws.

Women Oppose
 Conservative Nicholas Ridley said he had had letters from various women's organizations asking him to oppose the bill. From other members it was apparent the women's organizations are worried that a completely innocent wife might find herself divorced simply because her husband had left her for seven years.

The Solicitor General, Sir Peter Rawlinson, said Abse's bill was a matter on which the government was taking no stand because it concerned the social and ethical beliefs of members. He called the attention of the House, however, to the fact that dissolution of marriage without the commission of a matrimonial offense was a new principle in British divorce law.

Abse told United Press International that the real opposition to his bill avoided the "spotlight" in Commons and was saving its strength for the committee stage. He said he was optimistic about the reconciliation proposals, however, and did not anticipate any trouble when the bill went up to the House of Lords.

"As you Americans probably know," he said, "there are more divorces among the aristocracy than among commoners."

Bargaining Bill Passed in House

Salem — (UPI) — Public employees would be allowed to enter into collective bargaining agreements with state and local governments under a bill passed Wednesday by the House.

Rep. Edward Whelan (D-Portland) said the bill also would allow public employees to join any labor organization of their choice. The measure went to the Senate.

Whelan said it was only permissive, not mandatory.

Rep. Sidney Baxett (R-Grant's Pass) said the Oregon Public Employees association opposes the bill.

He termed it an encroachment on local governments.

The House also passed, 35-24, and sent to the Senate a bill to reduce the firemen's work week from 72 to 56 hours.

Teachers Win John Hay Fellowships

Salem — (UPI) — Two Oregon high school teachers are among 80 in the nation to win 1963-64 John Hay fellowships, the State Department of Education has announced.

They are Delmer W. Aebischer, music teacher at Siuslaw High school in Florence, and Raymond L. Chapman, social studies teacher at Forest Grove Union High school.

TERM REDUCED
 Portland — (UPI) — A 60-day jail term imposed on Bandon lumberman Wilfred S. Laird, 55, has been reduced to 30 days by Federal Judge John F. Kilkenny. Laird was sentenced Jan. 30 after entering a guilty plea to a federal income tax charge. He also was fined \$14,000.

SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$

GOLD BOND

REQUIRES LESS BOOKS PER GIFT!

- this means more gifts faster -

GOLD BOND stamps!



<p>PIES Bel Air Frozen Fruit 24 Oz. Size</p> <p>3 FOR \$1</p>	<p>DOG FOOD Pooch, Reg. & Liver Tall cans</p> <p>15 FOR \$1</p>	<p>Corn-Beans Bel-air, frozen Kernel Corn, Cut & French Beans</p> <p>6 FOR \$1</p>
<p>TISSUE Truly Fine, Facial. Box of 400</p> <p>5 FOR \$1</p>	<p>Margarine Coldbrook. Tops in flavor 1-lb. ctn.</p> <p>8 FOR \$1</p>	<p>Apple Sauce Highway 303 can</p> <p>10 FOR \$1</p>

DAY VALUE FAVORITES!

WILLER'S MODEL BAKERY

Crispies 3 for 27c
 Cherry Pies..... 63c Each
 (Homemade Breads)

Asparagus is here!



Large green stalks.
 First-of-the-season goodness!

Lb. 29^c

Potatoes 10^{LBS} 39^c
 Russets U.S. No. 1

Reg. 69c—Imported Holland
Gladiolus Bulbs Pkg. 12 49c Bananas 6 lbs. \$1 Carrots - Parsnips 3 lbs. 25c

Don't Forget - - -

Butter Shady Lane lb. 59c
 Canned Milk Lucerne Tall Can 8 for \$1
 Lipton Tea Orange Pekoe 48 tea bags 67c
 Peaches Lady Elberta Freestone—2 1/2 can 3 for 89c
 Salad Dressing Piedmont qt. 33c
 Mayonnaise Piedmont qt. 39c

Procter & Gamble

Lava Soap Hand Soap Reg. bar 2/27c
 Zest Soap For a real glow. Bath 2/43c
 Ivory Soap Pure—mild Personal size 4/29c
 Premium Duz Beautiful dishes free. 23 oz. 63c
 Salvo Detergent Tablets 28 oz. pkg. 49c
 Oxydol Bleaches as it washes. 49 1/2 oz. 70c
 Ivory Liquid For dishes. 22 oz. bl. 69c
 Downy Fabric Softener 17 oz. bl. 49c
 Thrill Creamy pink detergent for dishes. 12 oz. 39c

SAFEWAY

Lucerne Dairy Rich Cottage Cheese

Creamed or Farmer style Pint 25^c
 Fresh as a daisy

Dairy Topping Lucerne. 7 oz. 49c
 Party Dips Lucerne. 6 flavors. 8 oz. 49c

LARGE AA EGGS
 Cream O' The Crop They simply don't come any fresher! 2 Doz. 85^c

TOYS
 Inflated Easter Toys; Mr. Tosey, Lamb, Rabbit and Chick 87^c Ea.—Ehopping Center Store Only

Apple Rolls

Mrs. Wright's Caramel Apple Rolls. Pkg. 45^c



Oatmeal Bread or Western Farm Skylark. 2 1/2 oz. 35c
 Oyenjoy Bread White or Wheat Skylark. 2 1/2 oz. 3/89c

THE WORLD'S GREAT RELIGIONS


by the Editors of **LIFE**

Three fascinating books about the Miracles and Mysteries of Man's Greatest Faiths.

VOLUME 1
 "Religions of the East" is title of first volume of set.

NOW ON SALE \$1.39 per copy
 Volumes 2 and 3 on sale soon at same \$1.39 per copy price.

3-Volume Set... Exclusively at SAFEWAY



EXCLUSIVE AT SAFEWAY

Vogue Stainless Steel **COOKWARE**

Now you can enjoy the luxury of a "matched set" of beautiful stainless steel at a new low price.

\$4.49



This week we feature the large 6-qt. Dutch Oven. Add glamour to your kitchen.

Safeway Welcomes LEED'S SHOE STORE

to the **Medford Shopping Center Family**

With Best Wishes for Continued Big Success!

Listerine 6 oz. bl. 59c 12 oz. bl. 89c
 Pink Vigoro Plant food. 35-lb. sack \$2.99