

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

WHEN CASEY STENDEL was still piloting the New York Yankees world championship baseball team, he went to the Stadium very early one day to study the condition of the turf after a severe all-night rain. Nobody was in sight, but the ground crew—twenty or thirty men in green overalls, raking the infield and putting fresh white lime on the foul lines. Out of nowhere a couple of stout old ladies appeared upon the field. One of them tapped Casey on the arm and asked, "Do you happen to know which one of these men is Mickey Mantle?"



"Now, John," a mother coaxed her 7-year-old son, "you've been horsing around way past your bedtime. It's time to go to sleep." "I just can't, mom," argued John. "My mouth is still full of words."

The insurance adjuster was indignant. "How come," he demanded of the man who had sent for him, "that you didn't call the police the minute you discovered your car had been stolen?" "Well, for one thing," was the answer, "my wife was in it."

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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.)

Norma C.—Our TV set broke down and he wants to leave it that way!

Harold C.—At last we have a chance to talk and get some reading done.

Norma C.—My husband said he'd arrange for a man to repair our broken television set. But a week has gone by and now he confesses he'd like to let it stay broken! This is a terrible hardship on the children and me, even if he does not miss it. The kids must run over to their friends' homes to follow their favorites. And I depend on TV to brighten my day and keep me informed. Without it, I'm back in the Dark Ages.

Harold C.—Home was never so wonderful. Norma and the kids talk to each other now and when I get home, our son reads me the letter he got from my mother. Our daughter shows me the composition she got a B plus on. But with the TV set humming away, I'd get a quick kiss during a commercial and, if it was a long one, a Hello-what's new tacked on! And we're getting some reading done. For real information Norma should get back to books and magazines, not count on TV.

Harold's version of Longfellow's plea. And visitors who enter (or possibly trespass) on a television-hushed home would probably add their vote to his for more "compulsory" silence so that one can just sit around and talk. Get the receiver fixed, Harold, but use this undistracted period to work out a pact with Norma and the children. TV can provide both information and entertainment, but unless the viewer stays glued to educational programs, he won't get much of the former—at least not as much as he'd get devoting the same time to radio, newspapers, magazines, and books. And approaching the medium mainly for entertainment—well, that must be strictly budgeted—for to drag in our revised Longfellow again, "Life is real, life is earnest, and its end is not those plays." . . . For more getting-to-know-you time, why not ask the repairman to put doors over the screen and give the keys to Norma to use discreetly toward that end?

Shoup Warns of Soviet Submarines

The Council—"Tell me not, in mournful numbers, life is but a TV screen," would be

Washington—UPI—Gen. David M. Shoup, Marine Corps commandant, believes the United States should be more concerned about the potential threat of Russian Polaris-type submarines off the coast than "a few Russians down in Cuba."

Shoup, in testimony before a House Appropriations subcommittee made public Thursday, said "I think we ought to think about what we are going to do when they are 3 1/2 miles away in submarines with Polaris-type armament. And it is going to come to pass."

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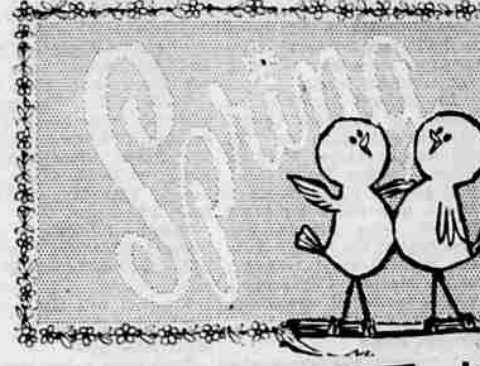
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