

Our New House In The Suburbs Has Ruined Our Family Peace

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We were a happy family until we moved out to this new suburb. Now my wife is not satisfied with anything. The local school isn't good enough for the kids. She's started spending a lot of money on furniture and clothes, has taken to smoking and drinking some, and has joined every club, society, or organization in the neighborhood. I don't mind, but now she's trying to reform me — according to her I'm not even housebroken. What should I do?

You're in for some rough heading, Frank. These family reform campaigns can get to be quite a nuisance when managed by an energetic woman, though you may have to live with the situation for some time, it may be helpful to analyze the factors involved before suggesting a remedy.

Whether you realized it or not, your change of residence indicates that you have become socially mobile. Your family is moving into a higher, or at least different, social bracket.

This movement is common in America because we have an open-class social system that does not restrict upward mobility, and a flourishing economic system that makes possible the increased family income required to finance the climb up the social ladder.

Although you may have thought that you were only changing residence when you moved into this new suburb, you obviously moved into a different social class.

Since family outlooks, attitudes, and patterns of action vary considerably among the various social strata, in our country, you are now engaged in making the transition from one pattern to another.

You may like the old ways of doing things and seriously question whether the new are better, but this is probably beside the point. For sooner or later, families tend to conform to the patterns prevailing in their communities.

How does the process work? In this regard, families tend to be very much like individ-



uals. While we are growing up, we model and evaluate our outlooks and conduct in terms of those persons around us whom we admire and respect. These "pertinent others" tend to set the standards and furnish the goals by which we judge our progress and development.

Your wife now has new pace-setters, and she's insecure and frustrated not in terms of what she has but in terms of the new ideals she has now acquired.

This accounts for a great deal of the insecurity, unrest, and constant striving we find among many families, for they are aiming at goals set by the top few and evaluate their situation in the same terms. Since the degree of frustration we experience is measured not in terms of what we have, but in terms of our aims, that is, what we feel we ought to have, one can understand why there can be so much frustration even among families that are apparently well off.

What can you do? I think once you understand what has happened you will be in

a better position to deal with it prudently. She is reasonable in working for some changes and expecting you to make some adjustments.

Your transfer to a new community obviously makes this imperative, since your family has now become an active unit in a somewhat different social system.

Unfortunately, your wife appears unduly concerned with making a good impression. Typical of the socially insecure in new situations, she is over-conforming. One may also question whether she has adequately sized up the real pace-setters in the community.

It takes some time to discover the "people who count" in a new neighborhood. Some of the elements in your wife's reform campaign suggest that she has confused superficial or incidental traits with real qualities.

It seems to me that your position should be firm but not flexible. Study the stable, happy families in your neighborhood and take them as your "pace-setters" if any changes are to be made.

COURIER-JOURNAL
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Protestants Seek Guide For Movies

New York—(NC)—A National Council of Churches study commission has recommended that their churches set up "a reviewing service" to "assist individual people" in evaluating films.

The recommendation came in a report which scored "pathological preoccupation with sex and violence" in movies, radio and television, and accused the media of a materialistic outlook on life.

The report was submitted to the 250-member general board of the National Council, the largest Protestant and Orthodox federation in the country, which has 33 affiliated denominations. The general board approved the report and referred it to the member churches for study and comment.

The study commission, which numbered 34 members, was set up by the general board to evaluate the mass media and the churches' role in their regard. Its report was the product of two years' study.

Besides suggesting a "reviewing service or service" for movies, the commission called on the Federal Communications Commission to set up "local boards of review" to evaluate the performance of radio and television stations.

The Protestant group favored self-policing over outside control in both the movie and broadcasting industries. It charged, however, that the Motion Picture Production Code has "become increasingly ineffective."

It said that "irresponsible individuals" are attempting "to circumvent both the spirit and the letter of the code."

It complained that "the image of man" presented by the mass media "is often poles apart from the Christian understanding of man and his purpose."

THE COMMISSION continued: "We speak here not merely of the pathological preoccupation with sex and violence or of revelations of dishonest practices . . . but more fundamentally of the assumption in both the content of the media and the policies which govern them that man's end is material advantage, power and pleasure, to be achieved through compet-

ing with, manipulating and exploiting his fellow man."

In regard to films, the commission said churches must "make clear to the industry that . . . the avoidance of offense is a minimum goal" and must "suggest more positive objectives, such as the treatment of human life with integrity, respect for the person, the avoidance of stereotyping, and the recognition and honest treatment of controversial issues."

In 1933 the Catholic Bishops of the United States established a Committee on Motion Pictures, whose principal work has been to direct the operations of the National Legion of Decency.

Protestant High School

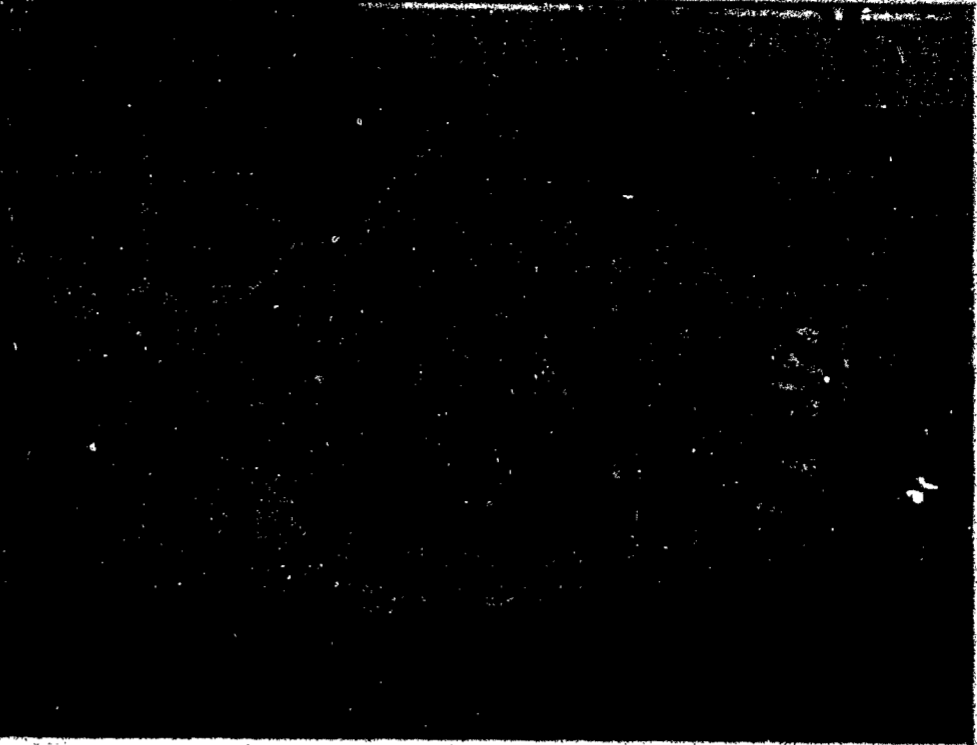
South Bend — (RNS)—Conservative Protestant churches in South Bend and nearby Mishawaka, Ind., are mapping plans for a "Christian High School" which they hope to open to a class of ninth graders next fall.

Speakeading the project are ministers and laymen from about 20 area churches totaling 2,000 members.

Info Center Year Old

Amsterdam — (RNS)—More than 3,200 visitors have been helped by the Catholic Information Center here since it was founded a year ago.

Organized last June, the center, now celebrating its first anniversary, received so many requests that it was transferred to larger quarters earlier this year.



Marker To Honor Early Jesuits

Bishop Kearney will bless this new marker honoring 17th century Jesuit missionaries in a rite near Holcomb Sunday at 7 p.m. The monument marks the site of a chapel used by refugee Huron Christians. Herman Hetzer, Rochester industrialist, authority on mission pioneers and donor of the marker, said route will be clearly marked from Holcomb. Site is a mile east of the village.

Tell The Public

Pupils' Right To Govt. Aid

Buffalo — (NC)—A widely known writer on U.S. Catholic education thinks parents of parochial school pupils must take the initiative in convincing the public of their right to government aid.

Home-School Associations and mother's and fathers' clubs have to get out and make their problems known to the public. Father Holl G. McCluskey, S.J., said.

THE EDUCATION editor of America, a national weekly review edited by Jesuits, is the author of the recent book, "Catholic Viewpoint on Education," and has spoken numerous times on Catholic education before both Catholic and other educational groups. He was interviewed before addressing the graduating class of Rosary Hill College here.

"Private and parochial schools have the same demands for quality in education as public schools," Father McCluskey said.

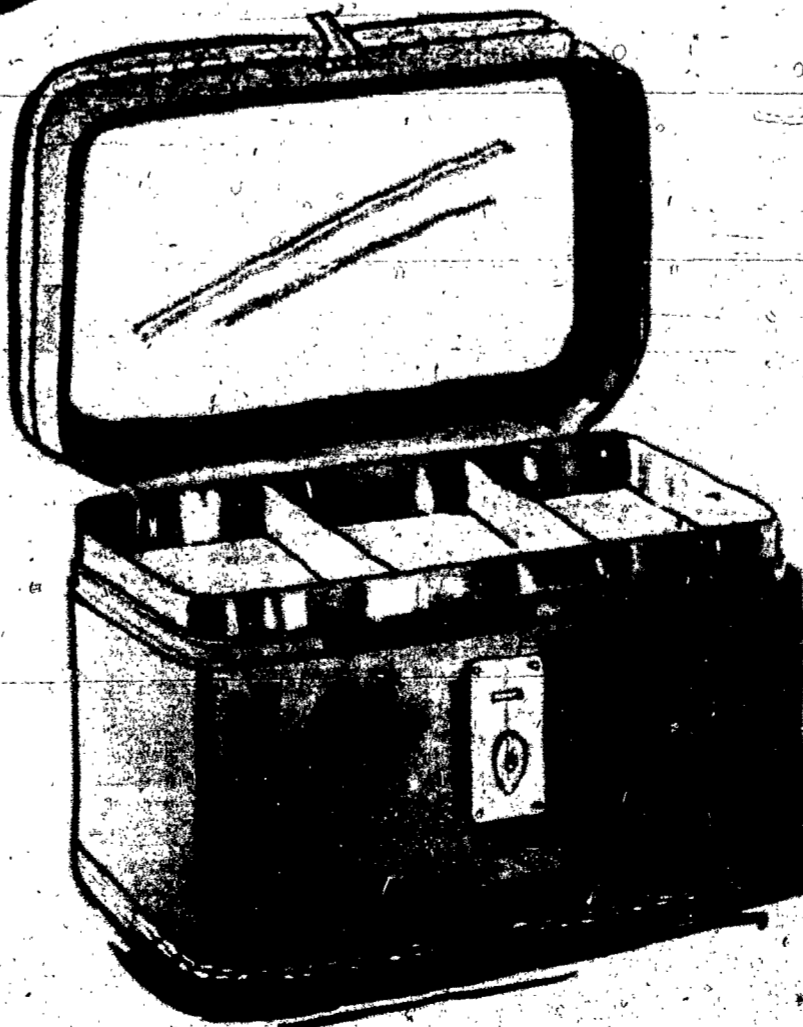
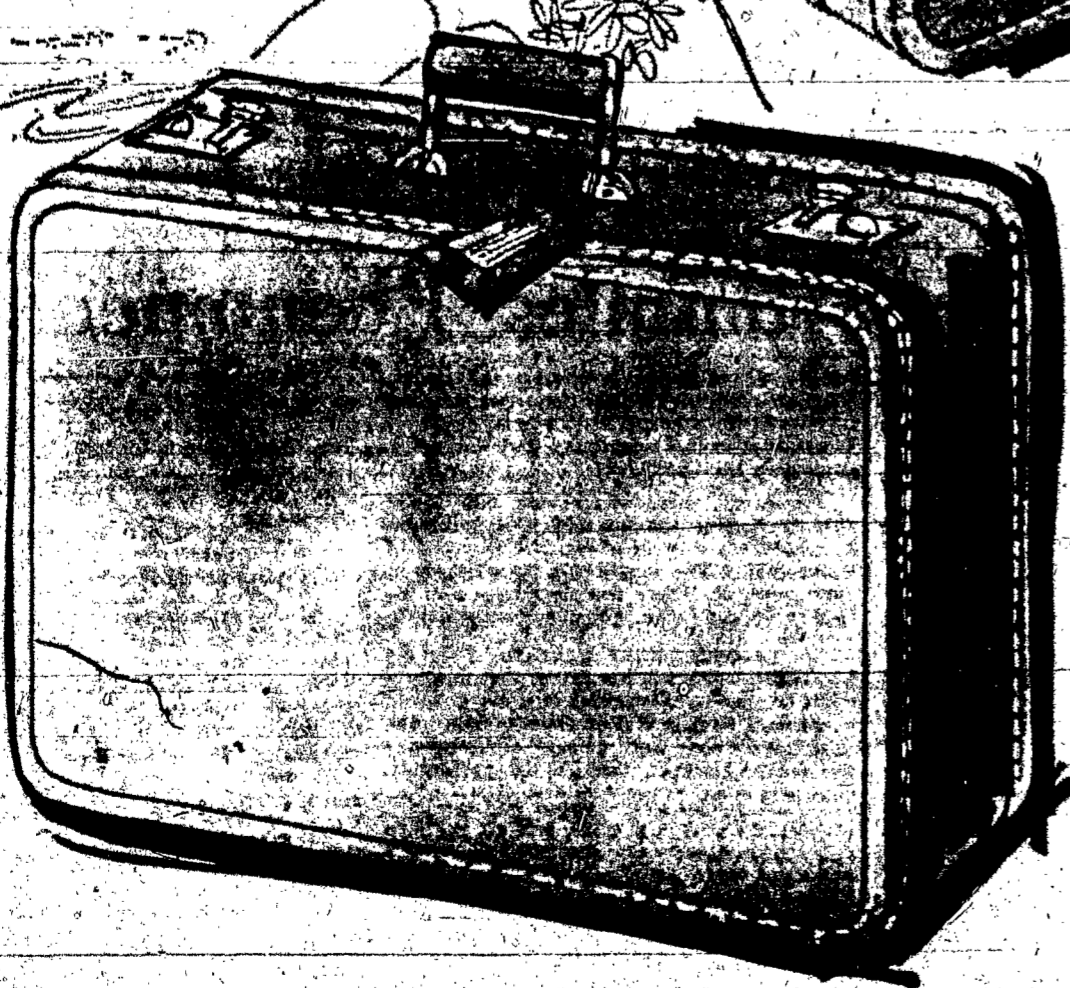
New Church Building On Rise

Washington — (RNS)—Church construction continued to rise toward a new high during May, the U.S. Census Bureau reported here.

Construction, estimated at \$77,000,000, was the highest on record for this month, exceeding the 1959 May record by \$6,000,000, or 8.1 per cent.

This brought total church construction for the first five months of this year to \$381,000,000, an increase of 2 per cent over the \$374,000,000 reported in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, construction by non-public schools and colleges totaled \$48,000,000, an increase of \$3,000,000 over the month of May, 1959. Thus far, construction activity by non-public schools is 6 per cent ahead of last year.



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