

My Husband Explodes Everytime Children Make Slightest Mistake

Must I uphold my husband's discipline? The children when I feel he is overly harsh or definitely wrong? He won't allow other children in the yard and doesn't want ours to play at the neighboring home. He explodes with anger if the children make the slightest mistake, and since we generally don't know what he wants, they live in fear when he's around. Is it all right to run things my way when he's not home?

Your problem is more common than one would expect in this age of "permissive" parents. Perhaps your husband's approach is merely an attempt to counteract the prevalent lack of discipline in so many homes, though I rather think it involves other factors also.

At any rate, you're faced with a rough problem. You feel you should uphold the authority of your husband, yet you must also consider the welfare of your children.

Before discussing your specific question, it may help to clarify the issues if we set down a few broad principles related to parenthood in general. In the first place, both father and mother are equally involved in raising the children, and have equal authority over them. Although the husband is the head of the family unit, he shares parental control with his wife.

IN IDEAL parenthood, the contributions of father and mother become complementary, that is, the insight and wisdom stemming from different backgrounds, experience, and intellectual feminine conceptions of life are fused in the decision-making process producing the structure and climate of training or discipline in the individual family.

As in all other sectors of married life, parenthood should constitute a shared activity based on mutually formulated goals and directives.

This does not imply that father and mother normally have an equal share in the actual, daily training and disciplining of the children. Because of her position in the family, the mother naturally assumes a major role, particularly while the children are young; and since she is responsible for managing the home, she necessarily makes most of the rules regulating the children's activities within this narrow domain.



Good parents recognize the importance of presenting a consistent and unified front in matters relating to discipline and training. Some children never know what to expect. Similar conduct draws praise one day and punishment the next, according to the mood of the parent.

At times they are blamed for not showing the mature judgment of adults, at others they are treated like babies.

It is obvious that some parents never think about what they are trying to accomplish in raising the children. Acting out impulse or out of habit, much of what they do is aimless, like the mother who says, "Mary, go outside to see what Johnny is doing — and tell him to stop!" Discipline should have a purpose — the gradual development of a sense of responsibility and self-control in the growing child.

TURNING NOW to your special problem — must you uphold your husband's harsh and unreasonable discipline? Since you share parental authority and responsibility with him, it should be clear that you are not bound by his arbitrary demands. Your letter indicates that he has made no attempt to understand the children.

In spite of their different ages and capacities, he ex-

pects them all to behave like adults; while his violent reactions to the routine failures, only makes them more prone to make mistakes in his presence.

This innate refusal to accept the natural limitations of children is manifested in various ways. At one extreme, we read about the parent who beats an infant unmercifully because it won't stop crying. We also know families so dominated by fear and thoughtless rigor that children leave home as soon as they are able.

At the opposite extreme are childish parents who refuse to recognize their children's need for rules and discipline. They allow them to do as they please, yet wonder why they are frustrated and unhappy.

The challenge you face is to avoid both extremes. This will require careful reflection and delicate tact. You will have to neutralize the harsh, unreasonable treatment of your husband yet maintain adequate respect for parental authority. No doubt, some mothers have always had to contend with this problem, acting as buffers or middlemen between fathers and children while giving their children balanced training singlehanded.

Jesuit Says

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, November 23, 1960

Artificial Life Soon Possible

Rome—(RNS)—In a sensational announcement, the Italian Catholic Medical Association officially declared that "the creation of life, or of living beings, by artificial means is not in opposition to the doctrine or dogma of the Roman Catholic Church."

The announcement was made during a special convention held here by the association. In addition to some of Italy's leading surgeons and research scientists, the attendance included the noted theologian Father Giuseppe Bosio, S.J., editor of the Vatican Jesuit review, Civiltà Cattolica.

Prof. Mario Torrioli of the Rome Chemical Institute, explained that one of several molecules of the substance now known as ADN and produced in laboratories "presented a functional, reproductive and formative activity proving the experimental creation of life."

"Once scientists are able to produce molecules of ADN which contain the genes that form hereditary patrimony," he said, "artificially created life"

will become a permanent possibility."

Father Bosio said the possible artificial synthesis of life, even in no way be considered in opposition to the doctrines of the Church. Theology, Father Bosio said, is the science that studies God in His relationship to men. "And God," he explained, "is the Creator both of the universe and of things simpler than man which can, in themselves, be an indirect creation."

"This is not a subtle means for the Church to escape the knowledge that science today is almost capable of creating life," Father Bosio said. "The Church always has admitted the possibility of spontaneous generation, and life in a test-tube can be, and will be, considered spontaneous without changing one iota of our religious doctrine."

U.S. Aid Asked For Birth Control

New York—(NC)—The man who sparked a birth control controversy last year has urged President-elect John F. Kennedy to take quick action in providing U.S. aid to birth control programs abroad.

William H. Draper, Jr., whose July, 1959, suggestion for such aid provoked nationwide comment, told a dinner of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America that such assistance must be given by the United States to nations, requesting it or "it may soon be too late."

HE URGED President-elect Kennedy to take quick action after he assures office to curb the population growth, which "could engulf and even destroy civilization as we know it."

Draper, a former assistant secretary of the Army, was chairman of President Eisenhower's committee to study the U.S. Military Assistance Program.

After presenting his committee report to President Eisenhower in July, 1959, Draper pointed out to newsmen a sec-

tion calling for U.S. assistance to countries seeking help in dealing with population growth.

He told the N.C.W.C. News Service his committee "did not discuss birth control programs in detail nor did it come to any conclusion as to the form of information of any type" that this country might make available.

His comments launched a controversy in which the U.S. bishops, speaking as a body, denounced the use of tax funds to aid foreign birth control programs and warned that Catholics could not support such a move. Other religious groups also took usually opposite stands.

President Eisenhower told a press conference he did not consider birth control a proper political or governmental responsibility. He said if other countries want such help, they should turn to private agencies.



Guatemala Squelches Rebels

Zacapa—(RNS)—Bishop Constantine C. Luna of Zacapa greets Guatemalan President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes as he leads loyal Army units who claimed complete victory against rebel forces aided by Cuba's Red-tinted regime. The president warned he would fight Cuba if rebel aid continued.

On Border Of Bible Belt

Visitors View Churches

West Palm, Fla. (NC)—Several thousand Non-Catholics visited Catholic churches in this area, where thousands of pieces of anti-Catholic literature were handed out in the presidential election campaign.

They were drawn by "Operation Understanding" sponsored by Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau diocese. The program's purpose was to have Non-Catholics visit Catholic churches and inquire about Catholicism.

Socialist Visits Pope

Most every one of the 87 rural Catholic churches in the diocese, which borders the Bible belt — the fundamentalist Protestant states.

Members of the diocesan council of Catholic men distributed invitations to their Protestant neighbors earlier this month.

Father Wallace G. Ellinger, who sent letters to 3,000 people in Caruthersville on election day, got 226 visitors (Nov. 13). They included a Methodist minister and a Presbyterian one.

"We did this so that no one could conclude we had anything other than religious motives,"

he stated. "The invitations were sent before the political results were known to anyone."

THE VISITORS were very friendly and curious, and generally seemed pleased to have the chance to come in and look around. In fact, the Presbyterian minister came back a second time, bringing a group

of young people from his church with him.

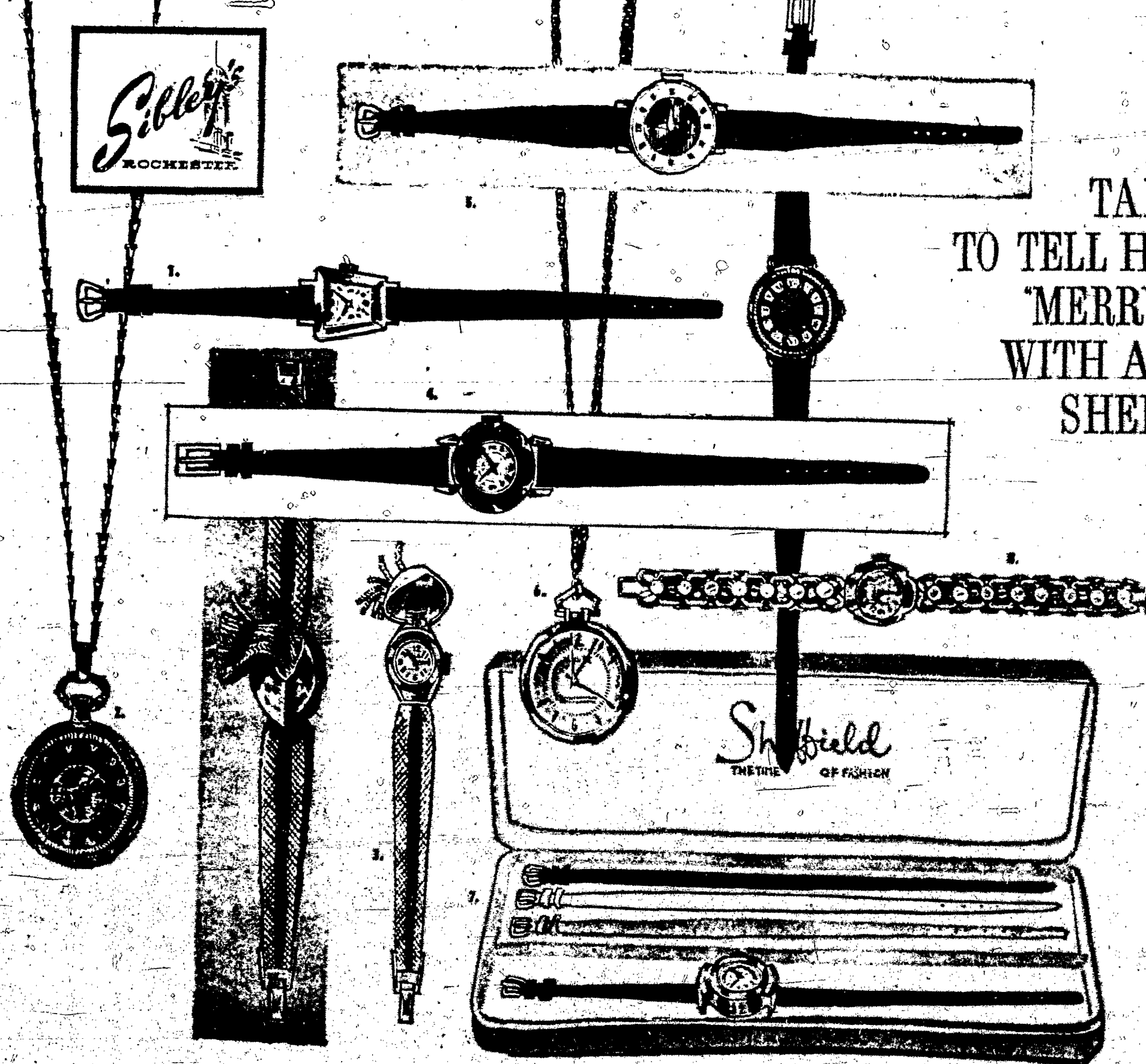
In nearby Steele the reaction was not quite as favorable. A number of men were on hand to greet visitors at St. Joseph's church, but no one came.

In Kennett, where anti-Catholic advertisements appeared weekly in the local newspaper since July, scores of people came to see St. Cecilia Church for the first time. A similar crowd of visitors toured St. Eustachius Church in Portageville.

In Lebanon, near the center of Missouri, many non-Catholics at first got the idea the open house was "the first step undertaken by the Kennedy regime," Father Justin Brauner, pastor of St. Francis de Sales parish, reported.

"I received several rather violent phone calls about it," he added, "but the callers calmed down after I explained that all we were trying to promote was understanding."

Some 120 visited St. Francis de Sales church. "Some were indifferent, others were very curious," the pastor reported. Among the visitors was one Baptist minister. Lebanon has 29 Protestant churches.



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