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National Family Life Policy Asked at Council Convention

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—(WNNS)—A long-term "national policy" to point out the goals toward which society should work to provide stable, significant family living where now we have divorce, tension and conflict, was called for by Dr. Lawrence K. Frank, president of the National Council on Family Relations.

Speaking at the tenth annual convention of the council, Dr. Frank said that the National Conference on Family Life to be held in the White House next Spring under sponsorship of more than 100 organizations will work toward such a policy. Dr. Frank, who is director of the Caroline Zachry Institute of Human Development, served as temporary chairman of the conference until the recent election of Eric A. Johnston as its head.

The national policy that is needed, he said, should be like military strategy in giving "direction and purpose to the tactics of immediate daily operations and decisions." But unlike the military, it must be evolved by the people concerned, not something imposed by any authority.

With the change of family life from a rural, patriarchal system to the urban, industrial pattern, Dr. Frank pointed out, has come

the need to revise "our legal conceptions and procedures, our medical practices, our educational programs, our economic arrangements, indeed, almost every aspect of our national life." Every professional group, organization, government agency, even business, he declared, should re-examine its day-to-day work to see how it is affecting the family. Mere reiteration of our legal, ethical, moral and religious ideas, he stressed, is not enough, since those "traditional conceptions are the source of some of our most acute individual conflicts and perplexing social difficulties."

"It is evident in our courts, our social agencies, in our clinics and hospitals, in our various institutions, as well as in many homes today, that these values and aspirations are being defeated," Dr. Frank continued.

For example, he asked, "What

are the lawyers and courts doing to the family and how far is the family being subjected to rules established centuries ago; how far is the legal conception of rights and duties an adequate basis for marriage, and how far do these legal formulations conflict with the aspirations of men and women today?

"What are physicians, clinics, hospitals and other medical services doing to family life, often sacrificing the family to a single-minded concern for the individual patient or disrupting and demoralizing the family, as in hospital practices for childbirth. How far are architects imposing upon families obsolete housing designs and thereby creating many of the acute difficulties of family life because they expect families to fit into their designs instead of designing housing to meet family needs and serve family functions."

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New family advice agencies setup

NEW YORK—Twelve new state councils of family relations have been established during the past year, Dr. Evelyn Millix Duvall, executive secretary of the National Council on Family Relations reported at the national council's annual meeting.

The membership of the national group, she said, keeping pace with growing interest in family problems and needs, has grown from 592 persons in 1945 to nearly 3,000. New state groups to coordinate local work and cooperate with the national, she said, have been set up in Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

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MARRIAGE COUNSEL VIEWED AS AN ART

Dr. Abraham Stone, veteran adviser on marital problems, outlined yesterday a set of standards for marriage counselors, whose work, he said, is emerging as a "serious social science and art."

The standards were drawn up by a joint committee of the American Association of Marriage Counselors and of the National Council on Family Relations. It was at the 1947 annual conference of the latter group, now being held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, that Dr. Stone made them public. It is expected that they will be accepted officially by a later session of the conference.

Marriage counselors should have sound educational backgrounds, rigid professional experience and qualifications and certain basic personal qualifications, Dr. Stone said. He urged that they have a graduate degree from an approved institution in any of the following fields: education, home economics, law, medicine, psychology, religion, social work or sociology.

Their professional experience should include training for a year under an approved supervisor, demonstrated diagnostic skill and the ability to discuss sex problems scientifically, he said. Marriage consultants should be persons of integrity, interest, warmth and be possessed of emotional maturity, he suggested. Finally, he recommended, they should be married themselves.

Lawrence K. Frank, president of the council, discussed development of a national policy for the family. Such a policy is necessary, he said, because so many of our traditional ideas are no longer adequate for the situation.

High Divorce Rate Worries Briton

NEW YORK, Nov. 29—(AP)—The stability of Britain's family life is "threatened as never before," Dr. David R. Mace, director of the Marriage Guidance Council in London, said today.

He told an annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations that in Britain the number of divorces has climbed from a prewar ratio of one for every 20 new marriages to one for every six marriages.

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British Family-Relations Expert Tells of Work to Avert Divorce

Says Accelerating Breakdown of Marriage Has Hit Britain 'Like a Bombshell'; New Guidance Councils Formed to Combat the Trend

By Dorothy Dunbar Bromley

While widespread divorce in this country can hardly be called a recent phenomenon, the accelerating breakdown of marriage in Great Britain has "come like a bombshell," Dr. David Mace, general secretary of the Marriage Guidance Council of London, said Tuesday.

Dr. Mace arrived in New York Monday to speak at the tenth annual meeting in New York of the National Conference of Family Relations, which closed its three-day session yesterday. In the course of a three-weeks' visit he will give several more lectures, consult with specialists in his field and visit the Olean, N. Y., family who cared for his two children during the war.

A clear-eyed friendly man of forty, slight in build, Dr. Mace, a Cambridge Ph. D., has none of the manners of an academician. He speaks the language of every-day men and women and even contributes a popular weekly column on problems of love and marriage to "The London Star" and twelve provincial newspaper. It is a sensible column that is neither superficial nor sentimental.

Before the war in Great Britain, Dr. Mace explained, divorce was generally considered a disgrace. At that time there was only one marriage "breakdown," indicating either divorce or legal separation, to every twenty marriages. Today, Dr. Mace said, the ratio is almost 1 to 4.

Formed in 1938

Last February a royal committee, appointed by the Lord Chancellor, recommended that the government sponsor, and allocate funds to, a marriage welfare service to be run by one or more voluntary organizations. "The most striking civilian development in recent times," the report said, "has been the work done by the Marriage Guidance Council."

The council was formed in 1938 by a group of physicians, ministers and sociologists, of whom Dr. Mace was one, "to find a constructive alternative to the divorce court." Dr. Herbert Gray, a well known London Presbyterian minister, became chairman and the Archbishop of Canterbury vice-chairman. Due to war stresses the council had to wait until 1943 to open a London office as "a pioneer venture."

"Some people thought we were plain crazy," Dr. Mace recalled, "and we ourselves were prepared to see the whole thing flop."

Since then 6,000 persons, rich and poor, from privates to generals, have visited the center's modest offices at 78 Duke Street, in the West End. Many callers come of their own accord; others are referred by social agencies, ministers, doctors, lawyers and courts, but none comes under compulsion.

People who are in a spot discuss their marital difficulties with counsellors. Some of these are older women doctors, now married, and social workers. Acting as volunteers, the counsellors give their professional services for several sessions a week. Clients pay no fee but may make a voluntary contribution.

Similar councils, all autonomous, have been opened in other communities. Usually the organization meeting is held in the council chamber, with the mayor presiding, the clergy and leading citizens present.

Dr. Mace would not venture a

guess as to how many marriages have been salvaged through the council's good offices. But he believes that a good number of people have left the center by a different door from the one they entered. Recently when he was lecturing at Oxford, a young couple whom he counseled three years ago came up to thank him and report happiness. The man had been sent by an army psychiatrist and their marriage at that time was "in a deplorable mess."

Sexual maladjustment, lack of birth control knowledge, etc. frequently cause marital disharmony, Dr. Mace said, since there is still a tabu on sex education in Britain. Other overt causes are separation due to the war, crowded housing conditions and hasty war marriages.

Need Common Standards

Behind all these things, Dr. Mace believes, lies the real trouble—that too many persons go into marriage seeking happiness with a capital H, never having been told that "marriage is a job of work" and that enduring companionship cannot be had by man and woman who lack common standards and who have not attained emotional maturity.

Common standards, Dr. Mace thinks, are more important than common interests. A British psychologist, he said, gave a battery of "marriage prediction tests" to a group of maladjusted couples and found them, according to the tests, well suited to each other.

"We must get young men and women," Dr. Mace said, "at the beginning and not at the end of the marriage queue." Recently the council has started an educational campaign, under the direction of Mrs. Mace, who studied in this country at Drew University during the war years. She had brought over their two children, now twelve and nine, in 1940, and had found she could not return.

Teams of lecturers in relevant specialties are sent to talk to youth groups, factory employees and workshops. At the end of the talks the question box filled by the audience is opened.

Used by Army

Recently the educational division of the British Army, hearing of the council's work, asked it to put on a series of lectures for a group of men and women in the forces. Now the army intends to follow the council's pattern of education as soon as leaders can be trained to do the work.

As here, marriages have been booming in England along with divorce. Marriage bureaus have spread "like wild-fire" all over the country, Dr. Mace reported. Prospects for young women twenty to thirty years old are good, since, despite the war, there is no shortage of men in this age bracket.

The marriage crisis—the title of the book he is writing—seems to Dr. Mace to be only second in importance to the question of what shall we do with the atom bomb. He believes it can and will be solved, but not until men have accepted women as their equals in and out of the home.

DIVORCE RISE SHOCKS BRITON

Dr. Mace Says Fourth of Marriages Break Up.

Too many Britons enter marriage for romantic diversion and their disillusionment has resulted in the "shocking" increase of marriage breakup in England, Dr. David Mace, general secretary of the Marriage Guidance Council of Britain, said here today. The organization, with a network of marriage guidance centers throughout England, is working on a marriage education course for the British Army and hopes eventually to give all English youth a sound understanding of what it takes to make a go of marriage.

Just arrived from London, Mace will address the National Conference on Family Relations here next week end, and then give a series of lectures. At a press conference in the Hotel Commodore he reported that marriage breakups, including divorce and legal separation, have jumped in England from one in twenty just before the war to one out of four marriages today.

"For England this is a shocking increase," he declared. "Before the war only a small group was prepared to face the social ostracism resulting from divorce. The only grounds for divorce was adultery until 1938, when the law was modified. The high rate came as a bombshell, and it has left England gasping."

Committee Named.

In June, 1946, Lord Chancellor Jowitt appointed a committee to look into the bottleneck in the hearing of divorce suits and to consider what could be done to prevent unnecessary divorce, he explained. This committee, after hearings, recommended that the Government give its sanction and financial support to the voluntary guidance council.

Started in 1938 by a group of doctors, ministers, psychiatrists, social workers and Quakers, the council set up a London office in 1943. Since then 6,000 cases have been handled there, Mace said, and other cities and towns have organized like centers, all under the same organization.

After negotiations with the British Army, three three-day sessions have been held for officers and service men and women as test classes for marriage education. These were a great success, according to Mace, and plans are being made to carry the program to the whole British Army, in which about 80 per cent are youths 20 years old and younger.

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Russian Effort To Strengthen Family Is Told

National Council on Family Also Hears Reports on Finland, China and Brazil

Soviet legislation in health care, women's activities and education, which "apparently fulfill a vital function in the strengthening of families in the Soviet Union," were described yesterday by Mrs. Emily B. H. Mudd, executive director of the Marriage Council of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Mudd, who recently returned from a tour of the Soviet Union, spoke at a general luncheon session on "Plans for Strengthening Families Around the World" at the annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

At the same session, Dr. David Mace, director of the Marriage Guidance Council of London, reported on Britain; Dr. Mauri Ruohunkoski, Finnish gynecologist, on his country; Dr. John Lobb, sociologist, Mount Holyoke College, on Brazil; Dr. Ernest Osborne, director of child development and parent education at Columbia Teachers College, on China, and Dr. Abraham Stone, president of the American Association of Marriage Counselors, on the World Congress on the Family and Population held in Paris last June.

Mrs. Mudd said that in the Soviet Union medical care is available free to any Russian who may be "in the course of his life exposed to danger." It begins with the pregnant woman and the woman in childbirth, proceeds to the infant, the pre-school and school child, the adolescent and finally the man and woman at work.

State protection of women at work through pre-maternity and maternity leaves with full pay, the function of child-care centers, though these are yet insufficient in number, according to Mrs. Mudd, plus the "attitudes of respect and appreciation fostered toward women as persons are a realistic and vital step toward enabling the modern Russian woman to contribute equal value as a job holder, a wife and a mother."

Mrs. Mudd pointed out that free education is guaranteed to all persons so long as their ability is proved, and she noted that provision of nurseries and kindergartens, available though not compulsory to all children of one month or older, "lessens the conflicts so inevitable for women who are attempting to undertake job responsibility outside the home and yet perform their function adequately as wives and mothers."

In Finland, Dr. Ruohunkoski said, financial difficulties and a housing shortage—which forces many newlyweds to set up housekeeping in ex-bomb shelters—are delaying family strengthening programs which are already being planned. However, free maternity centers and hygiene lectures for expectant mothers are provided.

Dr. Lobb said Brazil is lagging far behind other countries in its support of the family unit because of the extreme poverty of numbers of its population, its patriarchal, stratified society, great illiteracy and because of widespread illegitimacy among the "propertyless and the indifferent."

Though the family is of great-

est importance in Chinese culture, Dr. Osborne stressed that the main underlying problem is the "devastating influence of poverty" on all but the "veriest handful." A small but growing group of educators, doctors and social workers "can be counted on to develop those services to families which an increasingly industrialized nation will need," he said.

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Talks Planned By Dr. Klemer

A series of talks in New York and New Jersey will be made during the next two weeks by Dr. Dora H. Klemer, executive of the



Miami Marriage and Family council, now in New York attending the National Conference on Family Relations.

The New York meeting, in session since Friday, will continue through this afternoon.

DR. KLEMER

Dr. Klemer this week will speak to meetings in Brooklyn, New York city, and in Montclair, Madison and Orange, N. J. Next week she will make two talks in Orange at a regional conference of young people from Delaware, New Jersey and the District of Columbia.

She will return to Miami on Dec. 7.

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and which all might be could support.

Education

Missing the Goal?

The nation's schools fail to prepare American youth adequately for democratic citizenship, declared John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education, urging a revamping of the entire study program and curriculum in high schools.

"I don't believe we can leave it to chance," said Studebaker, "whether pupils in our schools learn about how modern man is influenced by his geographic environment, and how he in turn shapes this environment to his needs.

"I don't believe we can leave to chance whether or not pupils learn about supply and demand, inflation and recession, the relation of economic freedom to civil liberties, and what stake each of us has in the economic well-being of all."

America's No. One public educator revealed most high schools require only one year of social studies and that pupils on an average elect an additional year. Actually, he said, "we shall do well if necessary instruction is compassed satisfactorily in four years."

Addressing the National Council for Social Studies on "Communism's Challenge to American Education," Studebaker declared it is imperative for youth to understand and cherish the principles of American democracy and understand its responsibilities under them.

Speaking in New York before the National Council on Family Relations, Dr. Homer P. Rainey, president of Stephens College, Columbia, Mo. sounded almost the same warning.

He declared that because youth in better circles is being encouraged to avoid politics this country's political leadership has fallen into the hands of "submerged intellects." He advocated that students be given "an educational program to show the need for our personal share of political responsibility."

Meanwhile "The Teachers in America" group of the Citizens' Federal Committee on Education reported a reversal in the previous "ominous deterioration" of the American school system.

It found the drift of teachers to other fields has been slowed and that in some instances former teachers are returning to their profession.

DR. ERNEST OSBORNE:

He's one of the nation's outstanding authorities on family life

WHEN the National Council on Family Relations holds its annual conference in New York this week, one of the outstanding students of family affairs in the U. S. will participate. He is Dr. Ernest Osborne, 44, tall, lean faculty member of Columbia University Teachers College. For the last 20 years he has observed, studied and lectured upon family relations in this country and abroad.

Dr. Osborne, in addition to work with the National Council, is program chairman for the National Conference on Family Life, which will report to President Truman at the White House early next May. The Conference expects to lay before Mr. Truman a clear-cut outline of the problems which loom largest in American family life, together with a program for solving all or most of them. Already, researchers under Dr. Osborne's direction are collecting data in many places for the report to the President.

No Simple Way to Family Concord

Unlike some specialists in the field of social research, Dr. Osborne has no secret cure-alls for family maladjustments. He puts most of his reliance upon education in social living, believes that only through the development of understanding, tolerance, and mutual knowledge can friction which sometimes occurs between parents and



More democracy in the family. . .

children, and among children, be eliminated.

Thus, he affirms, if a married couple differ diametrically upon broad questions of politics, employment, or social behavior generally, their future is likely to be clouded by divorce. Failure of parents to understand the juvenile mind may lead to serious emotional disturbances which may ruin the child's life. In either case, education to understand another's point of view is the only truly effective

solution — and not in every case an easy one.

One simple recommendation which Dr. Osborne makes for family compatibility is democratic family life. This means participation of children in family decisions in such matters as selection of clothes, choice of summer vacation spot, even solutions to financial problems. All too often, he says, an autocratic relationship exists in a family which may cause children to mature without a sense of responsibility and with an unrealistic approach to adult life and its complexities in a confused and difficult time.

A native of California, Dr. Osborne has been a member of the Teachers College faculty since 1931. Nor do all of his ideas come solely from books and other social researchers. He's happily married, has a family of two girls and one boy at his home in New York City. And the Osborne family, you may be sure, is strictly democratic!

U. S. Leadership Now at Low Ebb, Rainey Declares

NEW YORK, Nov. 30—AP—Dr. Homer P. Rainey, president of Stephens College at Columbia, Mo., said today that American politics has been turned over to "submerged intellects" and that as a result "our leadership today is at a low ebb."

Rainey, who was discharged as the president of the University of Texas and also was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Texas in 1946, addressed the closing session of a three-day conference of the National Council of Family Relations.

He advocated a political education program for American youth to bring persons of "integrity, intelligence and responsibility" into politics. He declared that under the present type of political leadership the American conception of democracy is in peril.

"My great fear is that we may let it (democracy) go by default," he said, citing proposals for universal military training as an illustration of his contention, and added:

"Contrary to all our national traditions, are we to be the victim of something we have fought against in two world wars?"

Dr. Rainey also said that the time is approaching for "universal education for all youths up to 21 years of age" because of a lack of job opportunities for those between the ages of 17 and 21.

PARENT AND CHILD

Step by Step

By CATHERINE MACKENZIE

DR. KATHARINE WHITESIDE TAYLOR says that "the first rules of wholesome child guidance are to know what to expect at successive stages and of your own child as an individual." Children will give us the clues if we let them.

"Take the baby into partnership," she advises; babies start life knowing more than we do about their needs in eating and sleeping. They know—and let us know—when they are hungry, how much food they need, and when they've had enough. When children are ready to feed themselves they'll make a good try, just as they show when ready for toilet-training, when ready to tackle buttons and buttonholes.

Such developmental clues, observed all through childhood, are among the material most welcomed by young mothers in Dr. Taylor's courses in Education for Marriage and Family Life at the University of Illinois Y.M.C.A. Some of the mothers' comments were heard in a discussion group at the recent annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations. For example:

"I didn't realize that all children were individuals. I thought my son should do this and that every day and behave as Mrs. Brown's."

"I have learned to be more patient, and not continually to hurry my child."

One mother said that she hated to admit it, but until Dr. Taylor suggested them she never dreamed of "certain common-sense ways of handling" that "do work." This had to do with a 2-year-old's normal stage of saying "No"; a mother's discovery that suggestions work better than commands, and that, even if the child still says "No," the mother has only to wait to have him do what was asked.

Elementary? Some parents learn it the hard way.

TAKING one's cue from a child's development does require patience. Learning to feed themselves, children get food on their faces, on the floor. Accidents happen before demands to go to the toilet are clearly made—or made every time.

Granting that much of this behavior is exasperating—reaching for your lipstick and marking up the paint—the

clues are still there, as Dr. Taylor points out. This one may be a sign that a child could do with some nice red paint and some big sheets of paper (just as smearing proclivities are a hint to supply finger paint). A healthy child must climb on something. If he shines up on a chair and hauls down a family heirloom he is told off as a "bad boy." But if he went to nursery school and had a jungle gym to climb, everyone would say "what wonderful motor coordination!"

RECORDS of behavior are a device Dr. Taylor uses in her Y.M.C.A. course for wives of GI students on "Guiding Children's Growth."

One such record consists of jotting down daily some of the things a child does—maybe in the course of a given fifteen minutes, or a longer time, up to an hour.

Kept up for nine weeks this record has two uses. It conveys a little perspective on behavior, and how it changes.



And it gives mothers a chance to figure out why a child behaves as he does.

Mothers taking the course put down their own appraisals. Going over these, Dr. Taylor makes marginal notes. And if a mother has written, "Just wants attention," she suggests making sure the child is getting the right kind of attention, at the right time, and for something one approves.

She points out that if children get "attention" for things the parents don't like, the young are very quick to catch on. They soon know what gets a rise out of mother, and are skilful in their timing. (Dr. Taylor has brought up three of her own.)

When asked Dr. Taylor whether mothers out of reach of such courses as hers could get anything out of keeping such records. Many mothers could, she thinks. If only in gaining a little detachment. After all, she said, "Behavior is language."

Asked about reading sources for parents of young children, Dr. Taylor first spoke of Dr. Susan Isaacs' "The Nursery Years." (This standby, by an English specialist, first issued in 1932, is published by the Vanguard Press, \$1.25.) If parents can buy only one



book, she tells them to get this one. In her opinion, "The Nursery Years" helps to understand "why" children behave as they do. Dr. Arnold Gesell's and Dr. Frances L. Ilg's book ("Infant and Child in the Culture of Today") offers a guide to "how" they behave. She likes to see these sources used together.

And she reminds parents of Dr. Gesell's own emphasis on his material as a guide to development, not as a set of standards, or a measuring rod. For instance, while Dr. Taylor finds mothers "immensely relieved" to hear that at some time practically every baby shows shyness with strangers, the stage for this shyness varies. It may begin around seven months, or not until—or after—the age of one year. (If your baby is not shy at all, that's all right too. Some babies are never shy.)

WITH this caution, she points to the reassurance gained by learning that most 18-month-old babies want to overturn waste-paper baskets, and to fling toys out of play pens. That, sooner, or later (somewhere around eighteen months), babies get to the pushing, pulling, tugging stage. (These are the "furniture movers" described by Dr. Gesell.)

Dr. Benjamin Spock's "Baby and Child Care" (there's a 25-cent pocket edition); "Babies Are Human Beings," by Dr. C. Anderson Aldrich and Mary M. Aldrich; Mrs. Anna W. M. Wolf's "The Parents' Manual" were other titles mentioned. And Dr. Taylor added several others for their bearing on family relationships. Among these were Dorothy Baruch's "Parents and Children Go to School," "The Happy Family," by Dr. John Levy and Ruth Monroe. In this "family" category she mentioned Dr. Margaret Ribble's "The Rights of Infants" because it stresses the importance to children of the love and understanding husbands give to wives. What mothers give their babies depends a great deal upon them, Dr. Ribble holds.

As a specialist in education for family life Dr. Taylor says that bringing up baby happily is all of a piece with parents getting along happily.

It seems to us that a major strength in such programs as hers is in this all-around approach. Bringing up baby isn't entirely separate from a job for father, a decent place to live, space to play. Some of the "special interest" groups for young parents described at this recent conference had nothing directly to do with child care. Yet specialists say that these interests help to make happier families. No one has yet discovered anything better for baby.

