

THE JURY DECIDES:

Has a Wife the Right To Open Husband's Mail?

Today's Case

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury: Do you believe a husband has the right to keep things from his wife? When I married I thought I was becoming the member of the kind of a partnership that prevailed in everything. I have been married little more than a year and I've already learned differently, much to my own disillusionment.

Ever since our marriage I have opened my husband's mail and thought nothing of it. I never felt anything about it because I felt that any letters addressed to either of us concerned us mutually. I thought my husband felt so also, since nothing was ever said about it until just recently. The other evening my husband picked up some opened letters off the table and turned on me angrily. He said he was "fed up" on having his mail opened. I could hardly believe him at first, I was so shocked at his words.

Thinking of it now it seems very strange to me that all of a sudden he should begin worrying about having his mail opened and I wonder just what is going on that he doesn't want me to know. I didn't open his mail to spy on him. It was merely because I felt it was a privilege any wife or husband could enjoy and has a right to. Don't you agree with me?

How the Jury Voted

Women: Yes, one; no, five

Men: Yes, one; no, five

Radio repair man—No, I don't agree with her. A married man doesn't have much; he at least ought to have the choice of opening his own mail.

Accountant—There ought to be certain privacies allowed husbands as well as wives. In her case the honeymoon's over, that's all.

College student (woman)—If I were married I'd expect to open my husband's mail. That doesn't seem like asking so much.

Radio singer (woman)—It's not a very smart thing for any wife to do. It hurts a man's self-importance and that's always fatal.

Parking lot attendant—I'm against it. I'm against anything that gives women more rights than they got now.

Railroad brakeman—You can't blame the husband for getting sore. Did you ever see the way a dame carries on when a man opens one of her letters?

Housewife—No one has a right to open any one else's mail and that includes husbands and wives, even

though it is human to want to steal a little peek now and then.

Department store executive (woman)—A man should be given the same privacy in opening his mail as a woman expects in her own dressing room.

Telegrapher—If you don't get any mail except bills and circulars what difference does it make who opens it? I'd be glad to have a wife who liked me that much.

Restaurant proprietor—I think I smell a mouse. People usually don't get excited about opening somebody's mail unless its jealousy. Wives ought to leave papa's mail alone.

Housewife—Naturally any man is going to rebel at that just exactly as any woman would if the husband opened her mail.

Hosiery worker (woman)—I don't see what she would gain by opening his mail. If it was something he didn't want her to read he would make sure it wouldn't be sent home anyway.

Tomorrow: His Wife Can't Be Cured; Should She Be Told?