



ON VERGE OF COLLAPSE—Clinging to the arm of her attorney, Jerry Giesler, Marilyn Monroe appeared on verge of collapse outside of her home as she tried to talk to newsmen. "I'm sorry," she whispered. "I can't say anything. I'm so sorry."

Times photo



JOE LEAVES HOME—Joe DiMaggio looks out of the window of his car before pulling away from honeymoon home, presumably headed for refuge in San Francisco.

Times photo

DiMaggio Leaves; Marilyn Unable to Work on Film

Actress Marilyn Monroe gave up in sobbing collapse yesterday when she tried to return to her workaday world before the cameras after Joe DiMaggio had packed his bags and left their honeymoon home forever.

Marilyn left the quaint two-story house on Palm Drive only 45 minutes after Joe rolled away from the curb in his blue sedan, but two hours later she returned — sent home to bed by her physician.

Her studio, 20th Century-Fox, said the actress had gone first to the office of her attorney, Jerry Giesler, then to the office of her doctor and from there telephoned that she couldn't keep her date for rehearsals.

Distraught Marilyn

It was a tearful, almost ashen Marilyn who emerged from the DiMaggio home yesterday morning to face a ring of more than 70 reporters, photographers and newsreel cameramen.

Marilyn appeared stunned as she stepped into the glare of the lights. She swayed, her head rolled dizzily, and she clutched for the arm of Giesler, who stood at her side.

The bouncing beauty of the famed calendars had the look of a washed-out rag doll, al-

though her figure was still voluptuous beneath a severe black knit blouse and black gabardine skirt.

She carried white gloves in her right hand and a handkerchief dangled from her limp left hand. Clinging to Giesler's arm, she sagged at the knees, as if on the verge of collapse.

Tells Her Regrets

"I'm sorry," she whispered. "I can't say anything. I'm so sorry."

The actress dabbed at her cried-out eyes as Giesler spoke for her.

"Miss Monroe has nothing to say this morning," the lawyer said.

"As her attorney," he went on, "this is what we can say is a conflict of careers. Anything else will have to be presented in the proper place at the proper time."

Several times Miss Monroe appeared about to fall as the cameras ground away and microphones were shoved in front of her heavily made-up face.

Anticlimactic Ending

Staggering slightly, she picked her way among the crowd to Giesler's car and slid into the seat opposite the driver. Giesler got in beside her, backed the car from the drive-

way and Marilyn went away — a very bedraggled pin-up girl.

Thus ended anticlimactically what had been billed as a press conference at which Miss Monroe was to tell why — after hardly more than eight months of marriage — she had filed suit for divorce from the famed ex-centerfielder.

Joe's own exit had been hardly less dramatic.

Friend Helps Joe

Paving the way for the shy ballplayer's escape was his friend, Reno Barsoccini, who had driven down from San Francisco. Barsoccini parked the getaway sedan in front of the driveway and tossed Joe's bags in the rear end.

Then Joe came hurriedly out the front door — tall and plainly unhappy and wearing a pained smile. He was dressed in a neat gray suit and streaks of gray shone in his black hair.

"Hello, fellows," he said, and hurried toward the car, walking over the curved brick path, between rows of chrysanthemums and red roses, and putting out a hand to balance himself as he skirted Marilyn's car in the driveway.

"I have no comment," Joe

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MARILYN COLLAPSE

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said when he was pressed for a word.

"Where are you going?" he was asked.

"I'm going to San Francisco," Joe almost shouted.

"Are you coming back home?"

"San Francisco's my home," Joe said, dashing for the car now. "It's always been my home."

The former idol of America's baseball fans got into the car and it began to move slowly away. In a final attempt to show goodwill Joe waved two or three times, but the home-run grin was not there.

DiMaggio had remained in the home, living downstairs, since Miss Monroe had served notice through her studio Monday that the golden honeymoon was over. She was ill, he had explained, and had no one else to stay with her.

Jealousy Blamed

The final separation came at an hour when Hollywood churned with speculation over the real reasons for the crack-up of the "ideal" mating of the actress and the athlete.

One of the most persistent explanations voiced was that Joe, jealous by nature, found Marilyn's position as the darling of the American male a little too much to take—and her determination to stay in the limelight had caused an inevitable breakdown.

Mentioned as one possible source of discord was Miss Monroe's recent visits to the bedside of her voice coach, Hal Schaefer, when he was confined in a hospital after collapsing at 20th Century-Fox studios.

Found Unconscious

Schaefer was found unconscious in a studio bungalow last July 28 by friends and was driven to Santa Monica Hospital, where his stomach was pumped out. A police officer who stood by at the time said the results of the stomach pumping were negative, indi-

ating that nothing taken internally had caused his illness.

Friends pointed out that Miss Monroe was only one of several persons who visited Schaefer when he was recuperating in a private hospital, and discredited the suggestion that her visits could have been anything more than an expression of the warm friendship she has had for all of those who work closely with her in motion pictures.

Miss Monroe is currently making the comedy "Seven-Year Itch" for Fox and was to have shown up yesterday for rehearsals under the direction of Billy Wilder.

Wilder said the actress telephoned him from her doctor's office yesterday, however, and told him she couldn't go on. The director once more canceled the rehearsals, saying the work would go on today if Miss Monroe has recovered.

No Sign of Contest

Meanwhile, as DiMaggio fled to his home town, there was still no indication from him that he would contest his wife's divorce action. If he does not, Miss Monroe theoretically could win an interlocutory decree anytime after the legal 10-day filing period.

If DiMaggio continues to play the silent gentleman, the suit would be the familiar cut-and-dried Hollywood affair, with the actress winning her freedom after the recitation of a little polite evidence to support her general charges of "mental cruelty."