

IS Man Successful When

By THE REV. JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

Jackie Gleason, TV's "Honeymooner," is suing his wife for divorce. They've been separated 14 years.

California's Episcopal Bishop Pike, who has been trying to convince people that he's in voice communication with his son who committed suicide last year, has been sued for divorce. His wife says he's incompatible.

NELSON ROCKEFELLER drops his wife of many years and takes the spouse of a noted physician for his number 2. Donald Reagan, ex-flick star, is into his second marriage. Even the noted governor of Florida is reportedly paying more alimony to his No. 1

than his No. 2 gets from his salary on the state payroll.

Aristotle Whatshisname, worth upwards to \$250 millions, is now sporting an American beauty who is not only 23 years his junior and worth millions herself,

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but is the widow of an American president. Yet, even though the Greek shipping magnate was able to build and keep one of the world's largest fortunes, he was unable to keep his first marriage from going on the rocks.

He Fails At Home?

All these people have been dubbed by someone as "successful."

BUT IT MAKES you wonder, doesn't it? I mean, is a man really a success if he is a failure in the most important and fundamental endeavor of his life— his home?

A successful marriage is not one in which two people, beautifully matched, find each other and get along happily ever after because of this initial matching. It is, instead, a system by means of which persons who are sinful and contentious are so caught by a dream bigger than themselves that they work throughout the years, in spite of repeated disap-

pointment, to make the dream come true.

A happy marriage is no accident — it is an achievement. It has to be built because it does not just grow naturally. A man can build a house — or in the case of Whatshisname, buy a yacht — but to put a home inside — that's a different matter.

And it's an odd twist of fate that causes the guy who picks fruit for a living to be able to live happily with his wife for 50 years, while the governor of a state or even a bishop of the church can't make a marriage work. On the other hand, maybe it's not a twist of fate.

And it would be interesting to check the statistics on what each really believes about God. For in a nutshell, this is the crux of the whole matter.