STANDING ON BALCONY (top), American Embassy personnel watch demonstration by Moscow crowd in retaliation for riot by Hungarian sympathizers outside Russian United Nations office in New York recently. (UPI Telephoto)

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. H. L.—I should go to a nursing home.

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Greta J.—I want to do my duty.

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Mrs. H. L. — I'm an elderly widow and until recently I had lived for many years with my oldest son and his family. I was very happy and comfortable there, but finally my son and his wife decided they wanted to travel around for a year and they sent me to live with my daughter.

My daughter and I never got along too well and now that she feels she has to take care of me, things are worse than ever. I am not too well and I suppose it is annoying to have to cater to my wants.

I think it would be best for everyone concerned if I went to a nursing home. I realize this would be quite an expense, but I think my son can afford it and would be willing to do it if he realized how unhappy I am living here.

* * *

Greta J.—My brother would hit the roof if I mentioned a nursing home to him — and my mother knows it. She just does it to taunt me. She has always taken pleasure in suggesting that I have no use for her and she would be at the mercy of a cold, cruel world without my brother.

The fact is I love my mother but she does make things hard. My husband and I do not have my brother's money and live in a much more modest way. We have a small apartment. Mother never goes out so we have no chance to ever really be alone as we were before.

If only Mother wouldn't be so irritable and would get in the habit of going out a bit it wouldn't be so bad. I want to do my duty. The responsibility has been on my brother too long.

* * *

The Council: Many elderly persons are a bit too ready to take on a role of more helplessness and dependence than is necessary. Then they feel they are a burden to others. This seems to be the case with Mrs. H.L.

Men and women like Mrs. H.L., feeling their increasing age and infirmity, are frightened and wonder if their children really want them anymore. Just to find out whether they are still loved they make things a bit harder than need be, and children who might otherwise willingly take on their responsibilities begin to feel a bit resentful. The parent feels his question is answered. He is unwanted.

Children, on the other hand, often fail to realize their elderly parents require reassurance of affection. They wilt and become disagreeable without it and flourish when they get it.

Greta, for example, should have recognized that her mother felt lonely and dispossessed after long years in her son's home. It was Greta's business to make her mother feel at home, to introduce her to the new neighborhood, to help her find friends. If she had done so, Mrs. H.L. would have been more inclined to go out and would feel far more cheerful.

Mrs. H.L. should make the effort to take care of her own needs and to contribute as much to the household as possible. It may be a little hard physically at times, but she will feel much better for the effort. It will help her feel independent and less of a burden.

She should also try to develop some interests which she can pursue alone in her room, so she won't have the feeling of being unable to occupy herself without her daughter.

Bristol is a twin city, half in Tennessee and half in Virginia.

Pension Funds Becoming Factor For Stability in Stock Market

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York — (UPI) — Pensions and pensioners are two words in good repute these days.

Elmer Walzer

Pension funds are becoming a factor for stability in the stock market. Each year some $5 billion are collected for pension funds and many of them go into stocks.

Good words are said for the pensioners and there's many a tear shed for their inability to keep income up to the inflation level of the dollar.

The funds are administered by banks, insurance companies and private companies. The money piles up and must be invested.

These are just one facet of the many-sided retirement program of America. There is a phobia for retirement.

A Common Topic

Books have been written about retiring early and enjoying the last days of one's life. At the same time, there are thousands of words pouring out on the fallacy of forced retirement at 65 when many are capable of working much longer.

The pensions go on. The mutual funds are stored away for the time when one retires. And now there's a drive on to sell variable annuities for retirement — annuities which will vary in their payment as the market moves up or down and are supposed to take up the slack of inflation of the dollar.

It wasn't many years ago when a pensioner was a former government worker or soldier. Today he comes from many fields.

At one time the pensioner wasn't thought of too highly. Back in our Revolutionary War days, Samuel Johnson in England let his prejudices out a few notches when he defined pension in his dictionary.

Soak Up Stocks

"Pension," said Dr. Johnson of whom James Boswell wrote a big fat volume, "—An allowance made to any one without an equivalent. In England, it is generally understood to mean pay given to a state hireling for treason to his country."

Now a pension is honorable and so is a pensioner.

Along with pensions, there are many other funds soaking up the cream of the stock market. There are college endowments, generously seasoned with common stocks, religious and charitable institution funds, closed-end and open-end investment company funds, and many others. Banks and insurance companies also invest large parts of their monies—as much as the law allows—in stocks.

These funds take up the bluest bloods of the market. And recently, they have been taking them faster than new issues were floated. That means a reduction in the supply of stock available.

Several Solutions

So far the problem hasn't been too great and one can buy stock—but not too much of it at a time. Market men note that a sizable buy order quickly brings a substantial jump in price.

There are two things that could save the day so far as stock supply is concerned, and one of them isn't considered good. That one is a decline in the market that would make more stock available. And the other is flotation of more equities which doesn't seem at hand right now and won't be until there is a sharp pickup in general business.

Of course, there's another which isn't mentioned in Washington society. That is reduction of elimination of the capital gains tax.

Chief foreign buyers of United States farm exports in fiscal 1957 were, in order, United Kingdom, Japan, West Germany, Canada, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, France and Cuba.