END OF SERVICE—Arrival of the Japanese passenger ship Hikawa Maru at Seattle marks the end of Trans-Pacific passenger service for the city. The ship is being retired from duty because of her age and lack of passengers. (UPI Telephoto)

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

James R. – My bachelor brother should make his home with Mother.

Craig R. – She should be with his family.

* * *

James R. – My brother and I are the only children of a recently widowed woman. I am married and have four youngsters. My brother is still a bachelor.

Four years ago my brother moved away from home to take his own apartment. Now that Mother is alone, I feel he should set up a home with her. There just isn't any room for her in our small house. We hardly have room for our own family. Besides, my wife doesn't get along too well with Mother.

Mother is elderly and ailing and shouldn't be left alone. My brother has had plenty of time to enjoy his bachelor fling. I don't think he should be spared all responsibility.

* * *

Craig R. – I don't feel that living with me would be very good for Mother. I'm away from home all day and out several nights a week. She would be asleep by the time I got home. It would be the same as if she were living alone.

Mother's place is with a family. She loves her grandchildren. She needs young people around her. I told Jim I am willing to take on a good-sized share of the financial responsibility if he will get a larger home. Isn't that fair enough?

It seems to me that Jimmy resents my bachelor existence. I feel I have a right to live my life this way if I want it—without his needling.

* * *

The Council: And what does Mother say?

Although she is ill and elderly, we doubt that Mrs. R. wants to be foisted on a child when she is not wanted. Possibly she has other ideas about her future. She should certainly be consulted.

These two brothers are a selfish pair and undoubtedly feel quite guilty about it. They would like to place the guilt on one another, but we think it is evenly distributed.

It is unfortunate that love for their mother isn't strong enough to force them to make the necessary adjustments to accept her into their homes. However, if that is the way matters stand, they must both help her figure out some other plan for her future.

If this elderly woman cannot be left alone, both sons should provide the financial wherewithal to hire a paid companion. Possibly some younger widowed woman would be glad to have a home with her—rent free. Or perhaps a relative with a warm feeling for her would be glad to take her in if her sons made a substantial contribution to her upkeep.

If these young men cannot provide their mother with emotional security they should at least be ready to take on their financial responsibilities.

It would probably be better for her to live with a family—but the family should be one that wants her.

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Warning Signal Can Aid Drivers

Chicago – (Science Service) – A warning signal before a traffic light turns from green to the warning yellow can help the driver reduce his decision and stopping time, the American Psychological association learned here.

Drs. A. C. Busch and F. W. Trabold of Avco corporation reported experiments with drivers of an automobile simulator that showed the advantages of the auxiliary cues displayed while the green light is on.

They also reported that a horizontal rectangular shape for traffic lights would be superior to the standard circles.

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