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 represents advice of a panel of experts presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Mr. D. W. – There's no need for him to pick a college 3,000 miles away.

Stuart W. – It's the only way I'll get a chance to stand on my feet.

* * *

Mr. D. W. – Back in 1944 all our children perished in Europe under Hitler. With our whole family wiped out, my wife and I succeeded in reaching this country in 1945, thanks to a series of miracles, friends and rescue organizations. Stuart, our only remaining child, was born on these shores shortly after our arrival.

He'll be graduating from high school next year and has his heart set on attending a college just as far from home as he can get. This puts a fright into our hearts at being separated from him for long periods. It isn't as if he can't get the right courses near home. There are plenty of good colleges around our city. We're pleading with him to stay to one that's nearby.

* * *

Stuart W. – My parents have guarded me, shielded me and coddled me so much that I'm a laughing stock among my friends. They've been able to go to camp in the summer, but year after year, I've had to go wherever my parents go. This includes two weeks at a boarding house in the mountains during my dad's vacation. We join the others who escaped from Europe and they all reminisce.

I've always had to like their friends, but if they don't like mine I had to give them up. But college lies ahead and I've been counting on it for my big break, a chance to grow up. A college boy is supposed to be a man and the only way I can have some independence is through distance between my parents and me. I'll write, phone and visit. But I want to see how it feels to stand alone for a while.

* * *

The Council: The usual answers won't do in dealing with so unusual a situation. Normally, of course, our plea to Mr. W. would be, "Let go," and our encouragement would be directed to Stuart in his birthright to be "free."

But Mr. and Mrs. W. are heirs to a catastrophe inflicted by a madman. They were forced to do an inhuman amount of "letting go." Their present clinging may be considered almost normal in view of what has gone before. So our answer here must be softened in order to fit this understandably hysterical parent-child relationship.

The question now facing Mr. W is this. Do you regard Stuart as a human being or as a trophy, your "prize" from the struggles overseas? Thus far you've been treating him like a museum piece, something to be looked at, displayed, separated from the give-and-take of everyday life. The truth is, and you've been dreading to face it, that your son is an American high school boy looking forward, like millions of his peers, to plunging into the fray of the future and finding his place as an effective adult. In refusing to let go once again, you are thinking too much of the past, too much of yourselves, and too little of him.

We must point out to Stuart, however, that the special circumstances of his birth make it apparent that while he may eventually achieve independence of his parents, they'll probably never be independent of him. He is a vital symbol in their lives – their link with history, their souvenir of what might have been. Once he grasps the concept of their bruised emotional state, he'll be able to make decisions which are fair to himself and at the same time not too exacerbating to his parents. For one thing, he can make his friends stop laughing and start understanding.

Inasmuch as Stuart isn't planning to study orchid growing, which might necessitate registration in Hawaii, we suggest he sign up in a college somewhere between the other end of the nation and around the corner from home. How about a campus, Stuart, where week end trips, either by you or your parents, can bring you face to face occasionally?

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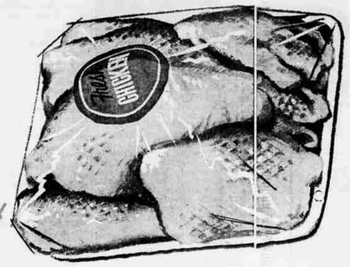

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Payments for Voice of America Appearances Hit

Washington – (UPI) – Rep. John J. Rooney (D-N. Y.) does not approve of paying such prominent Americans as Helen Hayes and Pearl Buck for appearances on Voice of America programs.

He thinks they should do it for nothing.

Rooney's feelings on the subject were disclosed Tuesday when the Appropriations Subcommittee he heads released the transcript of closed-door hearings. The subcommittee oversees appropriations for the State Department and the U. S. Information Service, the parent agency of VOA.

Shocked at Payment

Rooney said that he was "shocked" to learn that Miss Hayes received $800 for eight appearances and Miss Buck, the Nobel Prize winning author, was paid $700 for seven VOA appearances.

VOA officials replied that Miss Buck and Miss Hayes were guest editors on its "question and answer" program.

"We try to use prominent well-known Americans on this program answering listeners' questions from all sources," said VOA Director Henry Loomis. "We use other ladies on this program, such as Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt . . .

Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Smith were not paid for their appearances.

Rooney also criticized VOA payments made to columnists Marquis Childs, Roscoe Drummond and Earnest K. Lindley and NBC commentator Pauline Frederick.

Surprise Expressed

Childs, Drummond and Lindley expressed surprise at Rooney's criticism of their acceptance of $50 for each appearance on an unrehearsed panel program. Each said he regarded the payment as only a nominal fee, which was offered and accepted.

A spokesman for Miss Hayes said in Nyack, N. Y., that the VOA automatically paid the actress and "Miss Hayes did not negotiate" for the money.

Miss Buck's New York publishing representative said it ought to be "obvious to the public that the time of such people should warrant some payment."

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