SOMEBODY FORGOT ABOUT THE CREW

Some circles in Victoria and Vancouver were agog over the docking of the latest word in ocean ostentation a while ago, that is, the Pacific and Orient Lines steamship Oriana.

"Fifteen elevators are strategically located to transport passengers from cabin to bar to dining room, and there are so many public rooms for sitting, reading and relaxing that one is within a few steps of each stateroom.

"Television, cinemas, well stocked libraries are handy to relieve anybody of boredom.

"Exercise is available, if desired, in enclosed deck tennis courts, swimming pools and at the nightly dances.

"Parents who wish to see the bright lights of the ship's own Broadway have no baby sitting problem. This is solved by junior clubs with trained attendants on hand, and by an electronic listener if baby is left in the cabin. If he wakes up crying, mother is paged by a central telephone operator.

"Completed last year by Vickers-Armstrong at a cost of more than $40,000,000, Oriana, has the latest and best in propulsion, manoeuvering, and navigation equipment." (Victoria Daily Times, Feb. 2, 1961)

But sad to say, in this acquisitive society there are at least two sides to every story and this one is no exception. An item in the Vancouver Sun, Feb. 3, says: "A police dog early today helped arrest two Oriana seamen suspected of the knife holdup of a taxi driver in Stanley Park." There is a social difference between some paying passengers and sweating seamen. Of such is the kingdom of profit.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We must have your Correct Mailing Address

The Post Office, no longer, will forward magazines under any circumstances. — Notify us, at once, of your correct address so that you can be sure of receiving THE WESTERN SOCIALIST.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Victoria Daily Times reports "Indian workers on a Manitoba hydro-electric project at Grand Rapids are living in tents and eating 'very poor' food, a Winnipeg trade union official told about 100 delegates late Sunday attending a human rights conference." (Dec. 12, 1960).

It can get mighty cold in Manitoba in November or December, but this won't stop human rights conferences from being held to try to give humans some rights while the right of a few humans to ride on the backs of the rest is ignored. They'll steer clear of the cause of it all.

* * * *

"FOREIGN" COMPETITION

A recent A.P. dispatch under Washington dateline informs us:

"American business firms now employ more than three million workers and produce $35 billion worth of commodities each year in enterprises abroad, the Commerce Department reported.

"The massive growth of private capital investment was pictured in a comprehensive study, based on the 1957 census of overseas investment, brought up to date by some new estimates.

"The report indicated that direct investment by Americans in overseas branches, subsidiaries and affiliates has been at a rate of more than $2 billion annually in recent years. One official estimates privately that 1960 investment was about $2.5 billion."

* * * *

KENNEDY'S "PEACE CORPS"?

Quite contradictory conclusions are drawn from the paramilitary experiment in Cuba, *which attempted to cloak as a spontaneous rebellion of exiles an attack which in fact was fully sponsored and directed by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.* (Emphasis ours.)

(Wall Street Journal, May 16, 1961).

CRITICS OF SOCIALISM

We welcome your views in the columns of THE WESTERN SOCIALIST.

PROGRESS

A serious gentleman by the name of Gerald Johnson has written a book named, "The Man Who Feels Left Behind." This book was touched upon by one John Crosby in the Daily Colonist for March 3, 1961. The reviewer quotes the author on something socialists have contended for a long time, but he limits the area: "No big city is physically fit for human habitation. The noise, crowding, atmospheric pollution and inconvenience are such as sentient human beings should not be called on to endure save for compelling reasons."

Well, we know of some pretty compelling reasons why humans who belong to the wage-working section of society inhabit the asphalt jungle. It's nice to be able to eat, wear clothes and sleep with a shelter over the frame.

But what many proletarians must put up with is shown by another item in the same paper the following day.

"Twenty-one-and-a-half tons of dust fall on each square mile of Vancouver every month. But this is minor compared to London's 112 tons, New York's 85.5, Toronto's 50.2, Winnipeg's 49.2 and Ottawa's 31 tons.

"The side effects of air pollution cost each man, woman and child in the U. S. $2 a year. It means increased costs, skin irritations, allergies, damage to lung tissue, and is a possible link to cancer." (R. E. Munn, meteorologist from Toronto.)

Auto exhaust pipes can be filtered, so can smokestacks of factories. Industries and populations could be more dispersed, but this is not likely while wealth is produced for sale. Costs have to be taken into consideration and these things might eat into profit. So the workers continue to suffer.

J. G. JENKINS

Readers of THE WESTERN SOCIALIST who have become convinced of the urgent need to organize for socialism, write to:

WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY
11 Faneuil Hall Square
Boston, Mass.
for Application for Membership blank.

THE CIVIL IN CIVIL DEFENSE

Premier Bennett told the provincial legislature recently that the leaders of three marine unions that were involved in the 1958 Black Ball ferry tieup had agreed to operate under government operation before he invoked the Civil Defense Act.

The government now has ferries operating under state ownership, but it is interesting to note that a civil defense act can be used to protect the property of the owning class not only from the acquisitive ambitions of "foreign" rulers, but also from some of the attempts of workers here in trying to maintain wages and working conditions.

This might be worth remembering the next time we are told that the huge arms programs are maintained in the interests of all.

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FIVE JOBLESS GROUPS FOUND HARD-CORE

United States Expert Urges Action on Chronic Situation

The Labor Department's chief manpower analyst said yersterday that five groups represented "intractable problems of unemployment" in this country.

The official, Dr. Seymour L. Wolfbein, told a social workers' conference that the groups were teen-agers, unskilled labor, Negroes, older workers and workers in depressed areas. (N. Y. Times, 4-19-1961).

That unemployment, in itself, is not necessarily an "intractable problem" should be obvious when one considers a 6th jobless group not mentioned in the Labor Dept. report — the capitalist class. The problem of this group of chronic unemployables is not in finding jobs but in disposing of their legal swag.

BULLETIN

○ British rush troops to save Kuwait "independence" — and British and American oil investments — from Iraq.