

## Far East Report By King Williams

(Herald Co-Publisher King Williams, who has been making an extensive tour of the Far East, today begins a series of articles on his experiences. The importance of the Far East in the years ahead is emphasized by Williams when he calls the area "the chessboard for moves in the cold war that will ultimately decide the future of the Free and Communist worlds.")

By KING WILLIAMS

TOKYO—Americans abroad are finding the Far East changed and changing rapidly.

But the change seems to be superficial, touching to a degree all the millions of Orientals but leaving almost unchanged basic ways of life, religious philosophies and customs which seem to be taking in quite stride the jet planes, the automobile and the multi-storied office building.

During the past two months we have been transported by luxury liners, jet-powered airplanes, and express trains. We also have gone places in ancient river boats, sampans, rickshaws, and somlars.

We've had the soft breezes of the Pacific, the angry winds of typhoons in the Philippine and North China seas, the steaming heat of the Cambodian jungle, the thousand and one odors of Hongkong, and the racing atmosphere of Japanese mountains.

We have seen overdressed people from India, and children and some not so young humans as naked as jay birds. We have seen fabulous plenty and terrifying poverty in close company with the vicious handmaidens — disease and despair.

THE TRAVEL BOOKS paint a pretty picture of the Orient and most of their accounts are factual and quite accurate. One can stay at home and become well versed in the ways of the world, but the Far East must be seen to be appreciated and partially understood.

We say "partially" advisedly, for it is difficult for the average American to understand races of people who seem to be at home handling the most advanced piece of mechanical equipment, still living in the manners and customs of the 12th century.

In most western countries, the natives seem to follow a definite pattern of life and one's first impressions of Europe can often be quite accurate.

Englishmen, for instance, are dignified, home-loving and painstakingly rigid in their daily tasks. Germans are industrious and substantial and Italians are artistic and fun loving. Orientals, on the other hand, may be all of these or they may be complete paradoxes.

For this writer, at least, it is perplexing to categorize the Siamese or the Japanese except that the Siamese like to smile and the Japanese like to bow. The Siamese might smile simple because you happen to be passing while the Japanese is bowing because it is his custom and because he is expressing his gratitude after having been given the opportunity of serving you or concluding a business transaction.

THE SMILE and the bow are accurate categorizations in the Far East. But, to us, the accuracy ends there and we must join most of the other tourists and come home to tell you a lot of things you won't believe plausible, including the absolute fact that the Japanese don't like tips.

Americans are going to have to learn more about the Far East in the years just ahead for it is unquestionably the chessboard for moves in the cold war that will ultimately decide the future of the Free and Communist worlds.

Right now GATT, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is meeting in Tokyo with representatives from all over the world trying to iron out inequities existing in international trade. Unquestionably the pressure to open trade with China will have a bearing on the future and certainly will vitally affect American industry.

THROUGH VAST expansion of the various agencies of the State Department in countries of the Far East, the United States is trying to do a selling job for America. How well this

## Senior Citizens Highlighted at Union Meeting

Joe Ramsey, representative of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's senior citizen program, was guest speaker at the regular November luncheon meeting of the group in Wilmington last week.

Ramsey gave a brief outline of the success his group is having in organizing retired union members and their wives or husbands into active groups for social, political, and educational purposes.

Representatives from unions present pledged their continued cooperation in assisting all AFL-CIO unions in their organizing programs, according to W. J. Bassett, secretary-treasurer of the federation.

H. J. "Spike" Hennessy, business representative of Service and Maintenance Union Local 399, was chairman of the meeting.

section of the foreign aid program is succeeding is open to question and already is under fire from Americans abroad and from informed natives of these countries.

The future for American in this area isn't dismal; neither is it optimistic. There are a lot of problems and a lot of human beings, with very different cultural backgrounds, involved. American business and industry is in competition with powerful forces everywhere, much of the competition set up by the American taxpayer's dollar. How long any economy can stand this drain is something at has many of these otherwise carefree yankee tourists wondering.

IN THE WEEKS to come we'll try to give you our impressions of what we have seen and done in this rather extensive jaunt to the lands of Buddha. Most of it will be that of a mine run tourist, but we have some notes and impressions that certainly are timely on an important corner of the globe destined to play an important role in contemporary history.

## Gibson Tells Committee of Tax Proposal

A proposed payroll tax of 1 per cent which is being considered by the city of Los Angeles was discussed by Council President John S. Gibson, Jr., for members of the Shoestring Strip Advisory Committee here last week.

One of the advantages of the tax proposal is that it applies to persons who do not pay property taxes to the city as they live elsewhere, but demand and contribute to the costs of city services through their employment within the city, Gibson said.

He added that he felt the tax law as proposed had some inequities and that it required further study.

The meetings of the advisory group are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Normandale Playground, 22400 S. Halldale Ave. Any resident of the Shoestring area is invited to attend the meetings, according to President George Mercer.

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