



What with New York swarming with diplomatic celebrities there is growing public interest in the diplomatic immunity they enjoy, why, how come, and is there any limit to it?

Defined broadly, diplomatic immunity can be described as the freedom from local jurisdiction accorded under international law to foreign officials. And, more than once, it has been invoked by a foreign diplomat to protect himself from the consequences of acts which if committed by ordinary citizens would have brought penal actions.

Yet diplomatic immunity is a basic United States doctrine, recognized and applied since the nation's independence; is enforceable in United States courts; and the Congress has enacted specific domestic legislation recognizing it.

At the same time, however, diplomatic immunity does not relieve a person from the obligation to respect American laws. But the action taken against a diplomat who has performed acts endangering the safety of the community or the nation is not to haul him into court but to demand his recall by his own government.

The State Department recently made a study of the history of the concept of diplomatic immunity, a study that disclosed it dated back to the usages and customs of the earliest peoples of whom we have written record. William Barnes of its historical office dug up these facts:

Even among primitive tribes and peoples it became necessary in communicating and negotiating with each other, to give certain immunities and protection to each other's messengers or envoys.

The Kings of the Hittites, Babylonians, Assyrians, Hebrews, and Egyptians sent and received envoys, granting them protection and immunity. For example, in 1272 B.C., the Hittite King Khetasar sent messengers to Rameses II of Egypt to propose peace and a treaty of alliance. They were granted immunity despite an existing state of war.

The ancient history of China and India records that envoys from neighboring peoples were not regarded as subject to local jurisdiction.

The Bible refers to this subject of diplomatic immunity, and one particular message in the second book of Samuel describes the sharp retaliatory measures followed for violation of an envoy's immunity. Chapters 10 and 11 tell how the entire race of Ammonites perished at the hands of David, King of Israel, because they treated his messengers offensively.

The inviolability of envoys was necessary to the carrying on of negotiations. They were not subject to local jurisdiction even when they committed an offense in the state they were visiting. Thus Thebes declared war on Thessaly because its ambassadors had been arrested and imprisoned, even though there was evidence that the Theban envoys had conspired against the Thessalian government.

The Romans accepted the practice of the Greeks as regards diplomatic immunity, putting it in their codes of law, and Cicero defended it thus: "The inviolability of ambassadors is protected both by divine and human law; they are sacred and respected so as to be inviolable not only when in allied country but also whenever they happen to be in forces of the enemy."

Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.—Winston Churchill.

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WHOOPED IT UP TOO—Although New Bern High school's varsity cheerleaders get a better chance to bask in the limelight, the Junior varsity cheerleaders have earned glory also during the exciting gridiron season concluding Friday night. Shown here, left to right, are Kay Vereen, Carol

Gentry, Sharon Smith, Louise Whitty, Peggy Pate, Carol Ragan, Eleanor Dixon, Assistant Head Cheerleader Nancy Ward, and in the foreground, Head Cheerleader Connie Toler.—Photo by John R. Baxter.

New Bernians Can Do Worse Than Cater To Tourist Trade

Historic New Bern—growing increasingly tourist-conscious—has good reason to be interested in facts and figures that deal with fellow mortals on the move.

Visitors to North Carolina form quite a portion of the nation's travel traffic. In 1959, Americans took 247 million person-trips. A trip, as defined by the Bureau of the Census in its 1959 Travel Survey, involves one person being out of town at least overnight or taking a one-day round trip to a place that is at least 100 miles one way away from home. These trips covered 1,378 million travel days away from home, or an average stay of 5.6 days per trip. The expenditures for travel amounted to \$23 billion.

The National Travel Survey showed that in 1959, the destination of 55 per cent of the trips was in the state of residence, which accounted for 41 per cent of the trip-days. One-fourth of the trips were to adjacent states, where 23 per cent of the trip-days were spent. One-fifth were to destinations beyond adjacent states, which consumed 36 per cent of the travel days. About 2 per cent of the trips were to foreign countries, which consumed 4 per cent of the travel days. Then, 42 per cent of the trips were interstate, and 55 per cent of the travel days were spent on these trips.

The major interstate trips average about 9 days and cover 8 states, according to data collected in highway travel surveys. For the entire trip, the average expenditure is \$164 per party, but only 13 per cent of the money is spent in

any one state. North Carolina receives approximately 3 per cent of the nation's interstate travel volume, 2 per cent of the travel-days, and 1.72 per cent of the nation's travel expenditures.

Visitors to North Carolina are typical of American travelers, except that they spend less in the state. Thus, the North Carolina Highway Department found in its survey of visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that the typical party was on a complete trip of 6.70 days, traveling 1,260 miles, and spent \$152 per party.

Like travelers to other states, North Carolina visitors are quite transient. Half of the out-of-state visitors pass through the state or return home the same day. Thus, 50 per cent of the travelers require no overnight accommodations. About one-fourth stay with friends and relatives.

Nationwide, 43 per cent of trip-days are for purpose of visiting friends and relatives. En route, 30 per cent of travel parties stay with friends and relatives, and at the destination the percentage is 48.

When it is recalled that more than one-fourth of the persons born in North Carolina are living elsewhere, a high ratio of family visitation is to be expected. Some travelers, about 5 per cent, provide their own overnight accommodations in owned cabins, trailers or camping.

Only one-fifth of the parties require some type of commercial sleeping accommodations for overnight stops, a two- or three-day stopover, or for a vacation stay.

The average visitors stay in North Carolina is one night and somewhat less than two days. Those who do stop overnight will spend about 2.6 days. The common conception of a 5-day stay refers to a small percentage of vacation parties.

Summer travelers interviewed in the 1956 Great Smokey Mountains National Park Travel Study reported stays of 2.29 days in the vicinity of the Park. Pleasure parties requiring overnight lodging kept their rooms for an average of 1.69 days.

The average size of all travel parties is about 2 persons. Automobile parties carry an average of 2.29 persons, but parties going by common carrier are much smaller, about 1.4 persons. For business parties the average is 1.3 persons, and for nonbusiness, 2.5 persons.

Summer travel parties have an average of 3 persons. The average of 3.43 reported for the Great Smoky National Park is not typical for the size of across-the-state travel parties. The Smoky visitors were predominantly summer pleasure visitors. Weekend family parties and special groups inflate the average for park visitation.

The average expenditure in North Carolina is estimated to be \$22 per travel party, and \$5.50 per person per day. The average per person is \$11. Great Smoky National Park visitors in 1956 reported an average of \$10.66. The average tour in North Carolina is 200 miles, with an expenditure of 11 cents per mile.

Travel spending is heavier at points of origin and destination

than in between. Thus, travelers to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park reported an average expenditure of \$6.70 per person per day on the complete trip from home and return, which is almost exactly the national average of \$6.76 for highway surveys.

But they spent only \$4.66 per day in the vicinity of the park. Again this agrees with the average of \$4.38 for expenditures in particular states whose travelers were surveyed on the highways.

There are still those in New Bern who belittle the part played in our local economy by the tourist dollar, but its importance and potential can hardly be denied. And the more we learn about the traveling public's whims, needs and desires, the better chance we have to get our share of the vast amounts spent by folks who get their fun out of getting around.

Damage to Tobacco In Storage Slight

Damage to tobacco during the storage period due to insects has been very slight on Carolina farms this year, according to William S. Lamm, of the N. C. Extension service.

However, this insect—the tobacco moth—is always a threat and now is the time to start a control program. A good clean-up job in and around the barn will help eradicate this pest. All tobacco trash and refuse should be removed and destroyed, warns Mr. Lamm.