

He tells me that my experience with the exporter in New Orleans is not unusual and that they never trouble themselves with details (such as getting a car on a boat!), and apparently it is quite true.

He also said that they will "honorably" steal you blind, short change you, put 3 quarts of oil in the car where 6 are required, etc. and all, as I said, as an honorable and acceptable procedure. This habit reminds me of the Chinese where it is an honorable profession to steal, providing you are not caught. I look at the whole thing as being dishonest but according to Schramm it is not and you have to get used to such a practice in all Central American countries.

The rest of the passenger (except myself) are of two types; one rich and ignorant and the other rich and brilliant. There appears to be no one who is of average intelligence and rich. Ordinarily these two contrasting types of personalities do not get along together but the possession of money seems to secure the bond. Brilliant or dumb, they are all friendly and have acquired a certain amount of social poise. The first meal was attended in formal attire except Bee in a white shirt, but I noticed that ^{at} the next meal I had several sympathizers who also wore white shirts. I hope I have not set a new precedent for attire to be worn in the dining saloon.

Entertainment on the ship is a specialty, and it keeps the passengers going all the time. Most of the program is devoted to gambling, cards, canasta, etc. The first night but the purser put on some magic, followed by slides on Havana and a full length colored movie. He was really clever with the tricks, no doubt having performed the same act on every cruise for the last 20 years. One clever one was to put 10 razor blades into his mouth, chew them up,