

*Like but unlike Fredericton*

## Taxi rides are an experience but dirt cheap in Athens

PART II

By DAVID WILLINGS

Taxis are dirt cheap in Athens and a taxi ride is an experience. I think we can dismiss as mechanically inaccurate the allegation that Athens taxis are fitted only with a horn and a gas pedal but I can see how the belief took root. Actually I have evidence that one of them does have a brake. I was nearly thrown through the roof when it was applied. Unlike many other countries most taxi drivers speak no language but their own. If you tell the desk clerk at your hotel where you want to go he will write it on a card in Greek. You give the card to the taxi driver. After that sit tight. No problem. Unless you are a midget you will be wedged in anyway.

Never have I seen so many antique shops as in Athens. Unless you are an expert leave them alone. No country could have such

an inexhaustible supply of genuine antiques. Greek handicraft shops abound as do souvenir shops. In winter the prices are reduced. Most neighbourhoods have a number of modest taverns. In some of them you go into the kitchen and choose the food you want. As far as drinking is concerned treat Greek beer with the respect it deserves. It tastes innocent enough but when you have had a few it creeps up behind you and packs a punch like a piledriver. I am told it leaves a hangover to end all hangovers. While dispensing words of warning French and North American girls have got a reputation for being a pushover. I am told that there is ample evidence for this basic assumption. However, a Greek girl reading for a Degree in England told me it would be wise for any North American girl visiting Greece to wear a ring on the appropriate finger and say she is engaged to a Greek. This is likely to make Greek men think twice about starting anything.

As far as shopping is concerned there are kiosks on the corner of almost every street and I have yet to find anything they don't supply from cigarette lighters to aspirins. I have even found several of them open at half past three in the morning.

The Flea Market should not be missed. This is a collection of small shops each with its own unique character, each shopkeeper with his own personal brand of cosmopolitan salesmanship and his own brand of English.

The Archaeological Museum is too big. It would take several visits to get anything but a confused impression. Personally I just concentrated on the two rooms containing prehistoric artefacts and left the other five-sixths of it for a later visit.

A magnificent view of the whole city, the Saronic Gulf and the Plain of Attica is afforded from Mount Lykabettos. It is a most impressive walk but there is also a funicular railway which will take you to the top for five drachmas. On the other

hand the walk is well worth it. I went up in the afternoon while it was light, had a meal in the restaurant there and came down after dusk had fallen and the city was lit up. Two impressive spectacles for the price of one. The Acropolis is floodlit at certain times and from Mount Lykabettos this would be a most memorable sight.

There is a lot to be said for visiting Greece in winter. The weather is certainly not of sunbathing variety but it is still quite pleasant. I had several meals in open air cafes. It gets a bit cold when the sun goes in but not unpleasantly so.

Christmas is not one of the main festivals in Greece. Although some of the hotels have Christmas trees in the lobbies this is purely for the benefit of tourists. It is a partial holiday but more an occasion for going out than a family celebration. Children go round the houses singing carols on New Year's Eve. On January 6th there is a particularly colourful ceremony at

Piraeus (ten minutes from Athens by underground railway). This is the Blessing of the Waters. The Priest throws the cross into the water and young men dive in and retrieve it.

Easter is the festival in Greece. The guidebooks describe it as the most colourful Easter celebration in Christendom and I am assured by several widely travelled friends that, in this respect, the guidebooks are absolutely accurate.

Beware of salesmen who will accost you in the street and try to sell you anything from a fur coat to a genuine Grecian urn if you will just accompany them to such and such a shop. They just won't take no for an answer and it becomes a major annoyance. Quite by chance I discovered an effective way of getting rid of them. If there is an American within earshot point him out to them and they are off in a flash. Who knows? The American may want a fur coat and a Grecian Urn.

## Alberta government still evading Syncrude

EDMONTON (CUP) Evasion continues to mark the Alberta provincial government's attitude when it is questioned about Syncrude.

However by cutting through government documents and disclosures by industry spokesmen under persistent questioning, the outlines of the Syncrude agreement can be discerned somewhat more clearly than has been the case.

Lougheed's television announcement led Albertans to believe that Syncrude was an oil company owned by four American multinationals which was to build an extraction plant, mine the oil sands, extract the synthetic crude from the sands, sell the oil and divide the profits among the participating multinationals, after subtracting 50 per cent of the profits for the people of the province of Alberta. Everything

seemed quite clear, even when observers like Dr. Bruce Wilkinson of the University of Alberta, Grant Notley, leader of the NDP and Mel Hurtig, president of the Committee for an Independent Canada, pointed out that Albertans were in now way guaranteed the \$1 billion Lougheed assured them over the next 25 years. So what else is new? Well Syncrude is never going to have a profit. It is never supposed to have a profit. It is nothing but an operating company operating on the basis of zero dollars - revenues equal costs. Every month it submits an expense report to the participating companies. They then pay their shares no muss, no profits, no losses.

The participating companies, including Alberta Energy Company, if it exercises its 20 percent option, take their portion of the synthetic crude. They then do with it as they please, even selling it to

their own refineries.

Now where do we find our 50 percent of the profits?

After the oil enters the integrated maze of multinationals, profits will be what the companies choose them to be. Losses at the Syncrude end for Imperial Oil may surface as increased profits at the refinery elsewhere, or profits may be reduced by calculating capital expenditures elsewhere against them.

One can only hope that the open government of Peter Lougheed will illuminate what is really happening in this now-you-see-it, now-you-don't world of oil men and conservative politicians.

### Crossword Answers

LAVA	VERDI	JAMS
ALAI	EMLOT	ENOS
WASTENOT	WANTNOT	
MNE	RIPE	USED
FACE	BABE	
MOROSE	JANITOR	
ISERE	PANDA	POP
CALM	BUDDY	FINE
AGA	BOGEY	ELUDE
EXHALED	GNOMON	
AYAT	PEDE	
HATH	ALTO	AAR
HASTE	MAKES	WASTE
ALYE	ALIBI	DEAL
DOOR	LINEN	ZANY

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## Communists can run for public office in US

WASHINGTON (CUP) — The Communist Party of America can run candidates for public office as a result of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.

An Indiana law requiring parties not previously on the ballot to submit to a loyalty oath was ruled unconstitutional by the Court, which said it violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The law was challenged by the Communist Party of Indiana which estimates that up to half of American states have similar laws in force.

The decision marks the first time the court has confronted the loyalty oath as it pertains to access to the ballot.

Communist and anarchist led organizations have been a prime target by all levels of American

government since the early part of the century.

Under the direction of the then Attorney General Palmer, simultaneous arrests of 200 anarchists took place on November 7, 1919, with their deportation a month later. Included in those deported were Emma Goldman, an organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World and Alexander Burkman. A file was kept on over 60,000 radically inclined people in the country.

The Smith Act of 1950 made it a criminal offense to advocate the overthrow of any U.S. government by force. Communists were barred from teaching positions, foreign travel and labor union leadership.

In 1964 it was declared unconstitutional to deny passports because of membership in the Communist Party. As Chairman Mao would say, a great leap forward.



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