



The British
Are Coming!
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**Embassy Suites
Holiday Inn:
Parent Company
Not Responsible?**

**FEDS
CRACK
DOWN AT
HOTEL**

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TRAVELERS'  INQUIRER

WINTER 1996

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF BUSINESS TRAVELERS

FREE!

**Illegal Aliens
Build Embassy
Suites Hotel**

**John Q. Hammons Sued
For Fraud / Bad Faith**

**WARNING:
CONTAMINATED SOIL
AT HOTEL SITE**

-EXCLUSIVE-



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Eleven Illegal Aliens Building Hotel Arrested

What? You're kidding? Who'd have thought it?

That could have been the phony response of Dee Shoring Co. lawyer Fred Holroyd, in Charleston, W. Va., when he learned the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) nabbed 11 illegal aliens building a new Embassy Suite.

But even Holroyd couldn't go that far for the Richmond, Va.-based contractor.

So he gave just the facts, the bare facts, ma'am:

"There were in fact some illegal aliens working for the com-

pany under forged identifications," Holroyd said.

"Some of these had worked for Dee Shoring for several years in various parts of the country. It came as a shock to us that they were illegal."

The workers, ten from Mexico and one from Honduras, were hired by Dee Shoring to work on the hotel.

Steve White, director of the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, said his group complained to INS.

"How could we know illegal immigrants were working but

Dee Shoring didn't?" White asked.

"We have people who are skilled, ready, willing and able to work these jobs," White said.



Illegal aliens from Mexico and Honduras had "Been working for Dee Shoring for several years" according to a company spokesperson.

"Why won't they hire local people? It's outrageous."

INS is investigating Dee Shoring to determine if the company knew the workers were illegal.

"We have asked the IRS and Social Security Administration to investigate how Dee Shoring had employed illegal workers for so long," White said.

Let's Compare, Shall We?



Andrea Richards, 6 yrs. old

Can you hear Andrea's tummy growling? You see, Andrea's daddy, William Richards, was one of the few local workers hired to build an Embassy Suites, owned by John Q. Hammons Hotels, Inc., in Charleston, the capital of West Virginia.

He made poverty-level wages working for subcontractor Dee Shoring from Richmond, Va.

Andrea's daddy did not receive any health benefits on the dangerous job.

And when he asked for a raise and a ten-minute break -- the invasion of out-of-state workers really began.

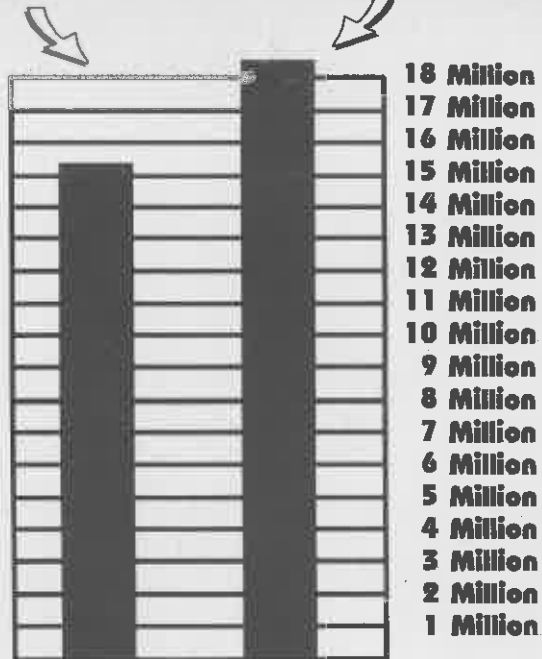
On the other hand, John Q. Hammons Hotels, Inc. made more than \$18 million last year, an increase of \$2.4 million from 1994, at its 37 hotels.

John Q. Hammons Hotels, Inc. may own all or part of this hotel you're staying in, too.

Is the money you are paying for your room tonight going to feed children like Andrea? Or is it going to line the pockets of a multi-millionaire?

John Q. Hammons, Inc. Profits*

1994 \$15,386,000 1995 \$18,729,000



*From Securities and Exchange Commission



John Q. Hammons Chairman and CEO

To Call John Q. Hammons:
Days - (800) 641-4026
Evenings - (417) 881-8822

CONTAMINATED SOIL FOUND AT JOB SITE

Construction workers exposed to unknown health risks!

Exclusive INQUIRER's Scoop

More than 5,372,000 pounds of contaminated soil were hauled away from the Embassy Suites site in downtown Charleston, W. Va.

What still remains at the site is not known.

The soil was contaminated with petroleum residue.

"We also don't know if there was any PCB contamination or any other cancer-causing agents," said Bennie Murphy, an employee of Dee Shoring Co., who worked on the hotel.

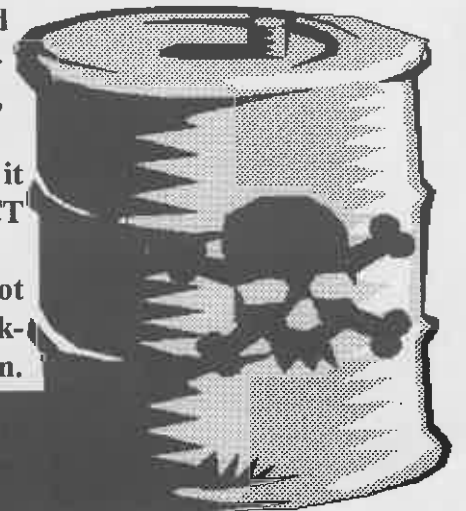
"Nobody even told us it was contaminated until ACT found out," Murphy said.

Why employees were not told about hazardous working conditions is not known.

State agencies have disavowed themselves from any oversight.

"Because no responsible party is on record for this contamination the state cannot require it to be cleaned up," said Mike Young, of the state Hazardous Waste Division.

Young could not confirm that all of the contaminated soil was removed.



JOHN Q. HAMMONS SUED FOR FRAUD / BAD FAITH

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INQUIRER INVESTIGATION

Okay, so maybe it wasn't the best of deals.

But was it really all that bad?

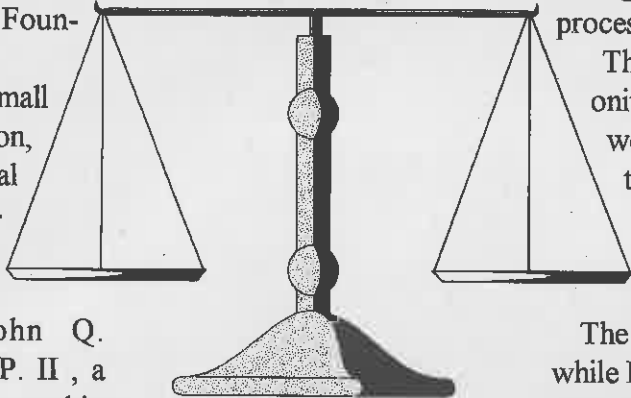
Well, the Marshall Foundation thinks so.

The foundation, a small non-profit organization, helps fund educational endeavors, medical research, and programs for indigent people recently sued John Q. Hammons, Hotel L.P. II, a Missouri-based partnership controlled by John Q. Hammons Hotels, Inc.

The allegations?

- Fraud.
- Bad faith.
- Misrepresentation.

Louise Marshall, a professor at Arizona University, started the Foundation in 1930.



The property involved in the suit is located near the school's campus in Tucson.

The Foundation agreed to lease Hammons property, with the understanding it would see a

"first class" hotel built.

The problem?

The Foundation claims Hammons substituted material and design, without going through the agreed approval process.

The result -- painted masonite doors that were to be wood veneer, painted trim that was to be red oak, single paned glass where double pane was called for, etc, etc, etc.

The Foundation alleges that while Hammons was sending building plans for Marshall's approval, Hammons was already changing them.

"We just want to know if he has done this to others," said foundation President John F. Molloy.

The case was brought before the Superior Court of Arizona for the County of Pima in April

of 1996 and is currently in the United States District Court, District of Arizona.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING?

Why did a California dream turn into a West Virginia nightmare? Embassy Suites franchise owner John Q. Hammons and general contractor McDevitt Street Bovis have fought a long hard battle with workers in Charleston, W. Va. over hiring practices and salaries.

Rock-bottom wages and snubbing local workers are at issue.

Travelers' Inquirer has learned the same owner and contractor just built

an Embassy Suites in Seaside, Calif.

But on that project most contractors and workers were from the local area.

Wages were over \$20 per hour plus health and pension benefits.

"We want to know why the same owner, contractor and franchise, building the same hotel, paid decent wages and benefits, with local people in California but won't in West Virginia," said Mike Matthews of the Charleston Building Trades.

Hotel Builder Accused Of Illegal Acts

FEDERAL BOARD CRACKS DOWN

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued two unfair labor practice complaints on October 31 against sub-contractor, Dee Shoring Co. of Richmond, Va., at the Embassy Suites Hotel project in Charleston, W. Va.

"These NLRB complaints back our claim that Dee Shoring is guilty of illegal discrimina-

tion, intimidation and coercion," said Gary Tillis, Assistant Business Manager for the Laborers District Council of West Virginia.

The first complaint alleges Dee Shoring illegally fired two employees because of their union affiliation.

The second alleges Dee Shoring's superintendent

threatened to fire employees, withheld pay raises and "gave employees the impression their union activities were being kept under surveillance."

According to Tillis, workers voted on July 12th to go out on strike, "after repeatedly asking for better wages, hours and working conditions."

Workers had asked for a ten minute break but were told no organized breaks are allowed.

"Working ten hours a day in the hot sun they were only allowed lunch," Tillis said.

"They couldn't take a ten-minute break to sit down."

An NLRB hearing is scheduled for late February, 1997.

The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming!

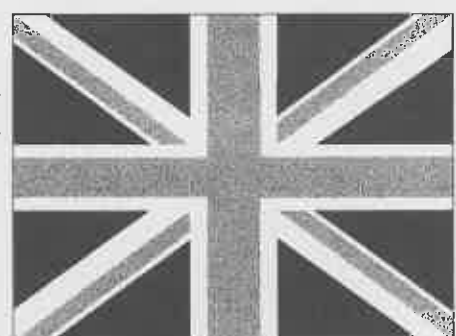
McDevitt Street Bovis is the general contractor on a \$23 million hotel job in Charleston, W. Va.

Charleston contractors were surprised to discover it is owned by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) of England, a huge multi-national corporation which also owns Princess Cruise Lines.

Lord Jeffrey Sterling is Chairman of the Board of P&O, a \$9 billion per year London-based company.

All sorts of questionable practices have been uncovered at

the Charleston project including illegal aliens, charges of unfair labor practices brought by the federal government, contaminated soil, and a rash of



local problems from licensing to picketing.

"West Virginia has such high unemployment it's tragic to

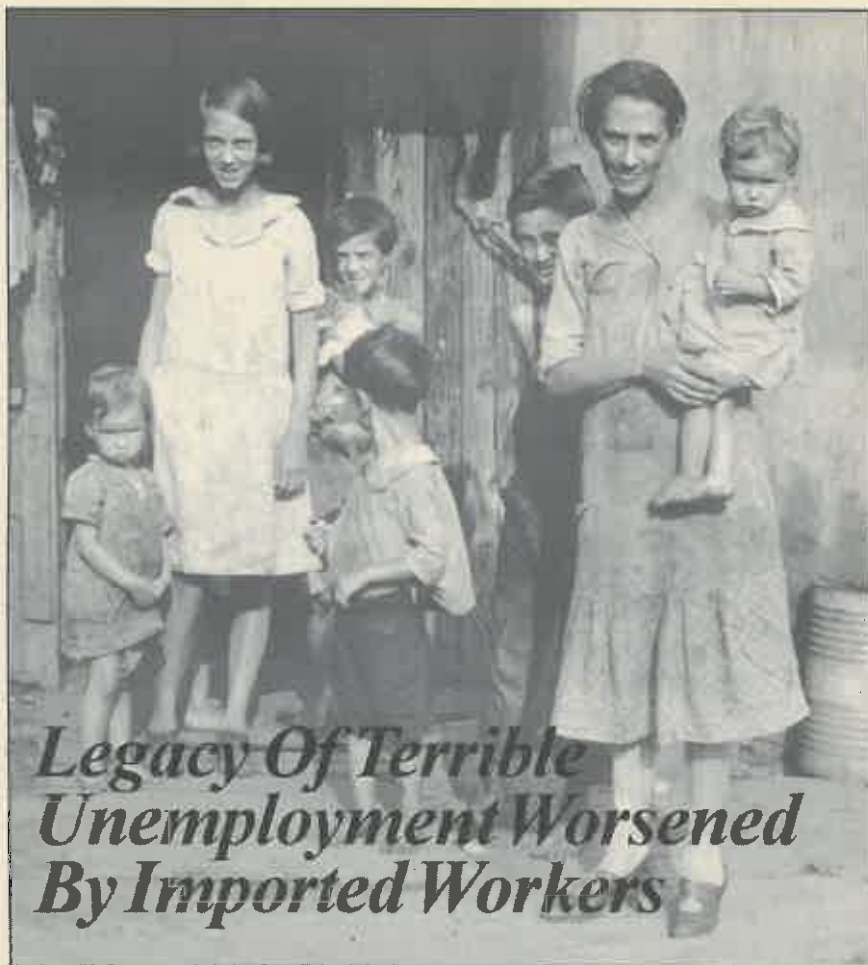
see companies coming from England, and sub-contractors with illegal aliens on their payroll," said Bruce Tarpley of Operating Engineers Local 132 and ACT Foundation President.

"Who do you think we should report this to?"

"Queen Elizabeth?"



Fed Up With Lousy Pay And Terrible Working Conditions, Workers 'Took To The Streets'



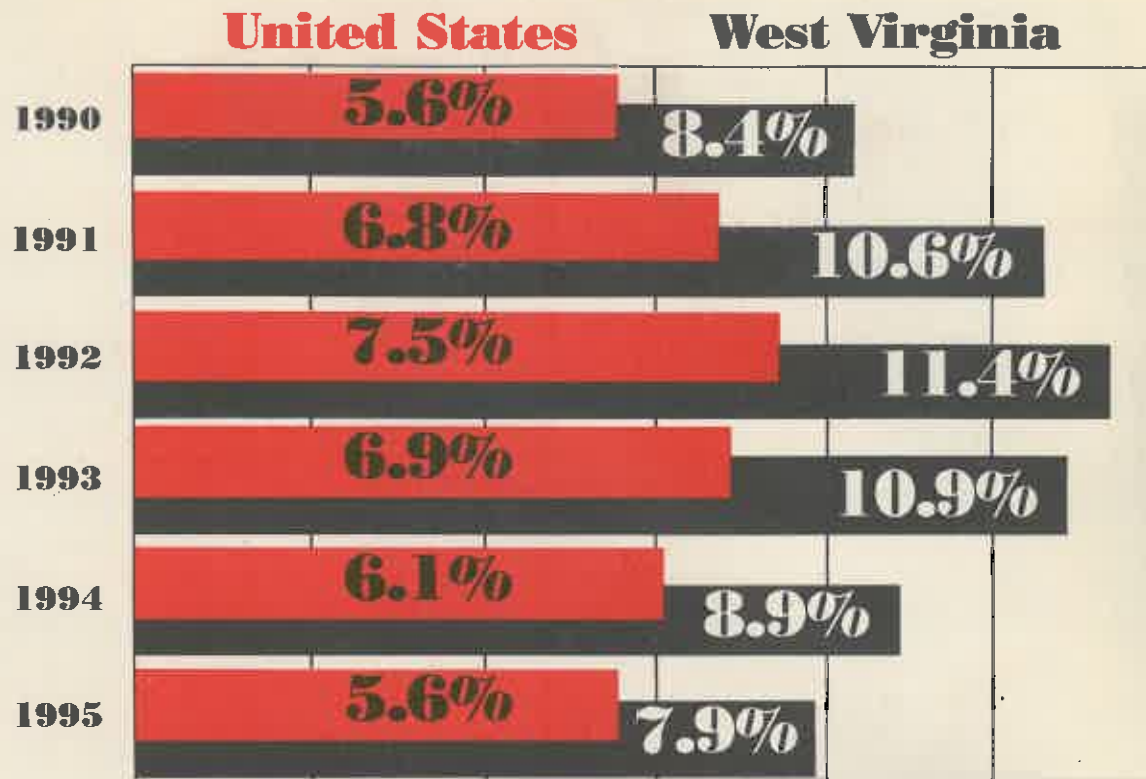
Legacy Of Terrible Unemployment Worsened By Imported Workers

Source: West Virginia State Archives, Mary Behner Christopher Collection

Highest In U.S. Since 1988

TRAVELERS' INQUIRER

W.Va. Unemployment



Source: West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, Labor and Economic Research Dept.

Local Workers Want Local Jobs

They're bleeding us again. In years past they were coal, gas and timber barons who swindled state residents out of land that earned developers billions in profits and left West Virginians in poverty. As a result, West Virginia has suffered from chronic high unemployment

for years. In fact, West Virginia has had the highest unemployment rate in the nation since 1988.

Now the new bleeders are developers exploiting West Virginians by using construction contractors who hire out-of-state workers.

"When construction jobs come to our state, we rejoice," said Bob Sutphin of the Charleston Carpenters Union. "That's why it's so disappointing when workers are imported to take these jobs we so desperately need."

Safety Tips For Travelers

1. Don't answer the door in a hotel or motel room without verifying who it is. If a person claims to be an employee, call the front desk and ask if someone from their staff is supposed to have access to your room and for what purpose.
2. When returning to your hotel or motel late in the evening, use the main entrance of the hotel. Be observant and look around before entering parking lots.
3. Close the door securely whenever you are in your room and use all of the locking devices provided.
4. Don't needlessly display guest room keys in public or carelessly leave them on restaurant tables, at the swimming pool, or other places where they can be easily stolen.
5. Do not draw attention to yourself by displaying large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry.
6. Don't invite strangers to your room.
7. Place all valuables in the hotel or motel's safe deposit box.
8. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
9. Check to see that any sliding glass doors or windows and any connecting room doors are locked.
10. If you see any suspicious activity, please report your observations to the management.

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Suite 600 1201 New York Ave., NW Washington, DC 20005-3931

Who Controls Hiring On Embassy Suites Hotel?

We're Not Responsible Company Officials Say

Remember the three monkeys lined up in a row? "See No Evil . . . Hear No Evil . . . Speak No Evil."

They must all work for Embassy Suites.

When problems arose at the site of a new Embassy Suites

in Charleston, W.Va. labor leaders contacted Embassy Suites' parent Promus Hotel Corp.

"We want to know," wrote ACT Foundation director Steve White. "Does Embassy Suites approve of contractors who violate federal labor laws; who refuse to pay decent wages or provide humane working conditions on the job?"

Promus lawyer Sarah Norton

replied "... our company is not building this hotel, and this project is not owned by our company."

"Would Embassy Suites or Holiday Inn allow contractors to hire convicted child molesters?"
Steve White, ACT director

In essence Promus says it's not responsible for who is hired to work on their brand hotels.

Promus sells franchises for both Embassy Suites and Holiday Inn brand hotels.

First, there are construction contractors -- they "See No Evil" when hiring low-wage transient workers.

Then there are Embassy

Suites officials who "Hear No Evil" by turning a deaf ear to the activities of contractors.

And, finally, there are the workers who "Say No Evil" because they're either illegal aliens, or afraid to complain.

Embassy Suites is not responsible?

"We don't believe it," White said. "Would Embassy Suites or Holiday Inn allow contractors to hire convicted child molesters?"

"Thieves?

"Drug Dealers?"

In West Virginia Embassy Suites doesn't care when contractors hire out-of-state workers, White said.

