

## BLACK TRAVEL .....

### Monster Bags

**T**ransporting an extensive wardrobe can be accomplished only with what is euphemistically a Pullman bag. It usually measures 29" x 22" x 9"—a real monster! Many luggage manufacturers now make these bags with wheels. Another large wardrobe carrier is the garment bag on wheels that usually measures 54" x 24" x 10" open and holds 12 garments. Handling one of these bags, filled to capacity, is difficult even with wheels. But when compensatory gratification is involved, one large bag is not enough. Since most airports and rail stations have an ever-diminishing number of skycaps and redcaps, smaller bags can disappear while you are searching for help with your luggage.

At the hotel, oversize luggage puts you at the mercy of the bellmen. If the convention is a large one, there usually are delays in getting bags to and from rooms and more chance for luggage to be lost.

A growing number of Black travelers are finding that carrying a less extensive wardrobe to meetings provides a gratifying sense of freedom and flexibility. A garment bag, the soft type, and an underseat bag that can be carried on one of the portable carts mean that neither skycaps nor redcaps are needed. Your luggage can go on the plane with you and instead of relying on the bellman, your bag goes to the room when you do.

### Beware of Prestigious Shopping Bags

**B**lacks shop at the best stores when they travel. Returning home carrying a prestigious shopping bag is another way of establishing that we are somebody. But to the thief it establishes that we are somebody ready to be robbed. It is very easy for such shopping bags to be lost or stolen during the confusion of boarding the train or plane. It is safer to pack your purchases in your luggage. This can be done in several ways. A number of companies make collapsible bags that range in price from reasonable to outrageous. Such a bag can be tucked away in your suitcase until needed. Then, too, today some luggage is made with the shopper in mind. These pieces unzip and expand to accommodate your travel purchases.

□

This article has attempted to show how the Black traveler's understandable need for compensatory gratification can affect the way in which he/she prepares for a trip. Also, according to Imperial Potentate Earl Gray of the Shriners and national co-chairperson of AOIP, very few of the dollars Blacks spend on travel are returned to the

Black community. We must devise ways to transpose this situation.

"Since a hefty part of Black travel is to conventions, the effect of our dollars at these

various convention sites is significant," says Grand Exalted Ruler Donald Wilson of the IBPOElks of the World and national co-chairperson of AOIP's Black Business Support and Involvement Committee. Dr.

Wilson further states, "Under my committee leadership within AOIP and my international leadership of the Elks, we truly are going to use every means possible to turn this unacceptable situation around."

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