

The White House itself has two stories but the compound is very spacious. The water fountains in front of it spray up water every hour, every day without stopping. And the flowers that surround the house are such that if you start looking at them, you don't go to work. All the colors of the rainbow can be seen in these flowers. I couldn't resist gazing at them.

I went up close and my picture was taken showing the flowers and their beauty. I also wanted to catch one of those squirrels but they told me it was against the law to catch them. Instead I tried to catch one of them in a picture. Those squirrels had become good friends with people. It was fun to watch them. Their behavior was amusing.

Going to the American White House was wonderful. On a few days of the week they allow anyone who wants to enter the house to go in and look around. The person will be able to enter and go all around, because it was the people's money, their tax money, that was used to build it. The person will be able to go everywhere in the house except the bedroom and the private quarters of the President himself. This is one example of how the American way of life is different from others. The White house is truly a white house. I did not go inside it because that was not a day when the general public was allowed to enter it. On that day, President Jimmy Carter himself was having a meeting; it was a time when they were seeking votes for another term of office.

When I was telling about the White House and the buildings near it, I mentioned the names "Washington Monument" and "Jefferson Memorial." This Washington Monument was shaped to be very tall, and was carved to a point at the top. Many workers in various offices are located there. It is said that more than 1,000 people work there. It was built in memory of the first American president, George Washington. Jefferson Memorial is a building that was made very tall, with columns surrounding it, in memory of Jefferson, the architect, who made America famous. That is why the name of America will never be forgotten.

14. Philadelphia

As I said in another place in this book, the Americans call this city the "City of Brotherly Love."

It is also in this city that they took their independence from the British government. At first it was the capital city of America. Therefore, if a person travels to America but does not set foot in Philadelphia, it will be like one who eats up all the good food quickly but does not drink water to wash it down.

This city is beautiful. There are banks and restaurants and various kinds of recreation. We know that many of those who have money in America are the Jews. They are not very numerous in this city but they hold more of its wealth. Some of the money-generating businesses you will see are:

Wawa market
Ohara's saloon
House of spices of N.Y.
Mimy bazaar
Temple Auto
Gino's Hamburgers
Wawa food centre
University Holiday Inn
Longaker Pharmacy.

There are up to 1,125 prosperous businesses and hotels in it.

Some of the wide streets in Philadelphia go in only one direction, which is what is called "one-way," like Walnut Street and Chestnut Street. There is one large university known all over America located in this city, which is called the University of Pennsylvania. It is one of seven famous American universities. This is where my sister studied. It is also where she received the highest degree, Ph.D., in something called "demography."

At the time we arrived at this university, the students were returning and entering to begin the school semester as usual. What one saw as they returned was like what one would expect to see of returning students. You could tell from their clothing, their way of talking, their attitudes and way of walking, those who were the new ones among them. It is said that the chicken who has newly arrived goes along on one leg. Some of the new ones were jumping like what is seen in other places such as the schools at Nsukka, Ibadan and Lagos where there are those who make them jump as though they owned the world. Whatever you look for can be found in Philadelphia. From New York to there is 100 kilometers. A zoo that is known worldwide is in Philadelphia. It is called the Philadelphia Zoo. When we reached it, it was already 5 o'clock when they close the public entrances. It is known that children are charged a dollar and a half. If you want to go in and stay there until closing time you can do so.

There is a big motor highway leading to this zoo, trains run close to it, and trolleys, which are fast-running trains propelled by electricity, run in the vicinity. This shows that anyone carrying anything can reach there. Inside the zoo there is something called "Philadelphia Zoo Safari Monorail." From April 1 until the end of November, anyone who wants to can ride the overhead train that runs completely around the zoo. What one can do if it is during those months should be clear to us. It is when their winter has not yet started. Every day people come to the zoo to look it over, just like on our Empire Day in the old days. All the variously-named animals that God created were in that zoo behind iron bars.

In front of the zoo compound there was an iron fence and various beautiful flowers were attractively planted. It was well arranged, the ground was raked

smooth and spread with real coal tar and marked with lines so cars could drive there in single file. There was also a space designated for handicapped people. In that place, a person of normal capacity could not go there and park his vehicle. His conscience would not allow it. The law of their land was against it. Being a stubborn person does not apply here. They know it. Neither is there someone trying to do it. I should point out too that travelers and tourists come there from all parts of the world to see it. There are so many trees in there and surrounding the zoo, causing a pleasant breeze to blow there. I myself thought that the breeze blowing there itself was life-giving. There was good shade under these trees, and they also beautified the place. If a person went there and came out, the tranquillity there would make him feel well rested.

In that zoo there is also a large body of water where they built a bridge across the center of it. Around the sides of the water they plastered it with cement where people were living and cleared all the areas around the water where people were, walking around and enjoying life. That bridge was built in the year 1895. The people who stay near that water use hooks to catch fish. Near this water also both motorists and bicyclists stop to look at the water and the people piloting boats, on it as well as those who are fishing and those who stay near it cooking and all barbecuing both fish and other foods like what goes on in Washington and other places in the U. S. The authorities in that city spend a lot of money to maintain that place of recreation and keep it beautiful. There are also people who are remembered who have worked well in that city and have died, for whom the city has built monuments and arranged them side by side around the water and its bridge.

As I have already said, the city of Philadelphia is well known especially for its great university, the University of Pennsylvania, and is the chief city on account of the many federal offices in it. In the midst of the city there is a large bell called the Liberty Bell, which is the bell they rang to declare their independence. There is also a large fountain of water going up and down. They also have here a meeting-house called the first parliament in the United States. Even the first table and pen used to write their independence document in the year 1774 are there to this day. One thing that is nice among all these things is that the city is very beautiful because of what they call a "trash bin," that is a container for throwing in rubbish, which later is carried off and emptied. There are also various places to meet and rest, as well as horses for hire for those who want to ride. The bridge that crosses Philadelphia and connects it with New Jersey is about two kilometers long. To be exact, it is 28 kilometers. There are red and green lights telling motorists when they can cross and where they are driving. It is also a spectacle to hear and to see the pilots of helicopters, that is small air vehicles that fly upwards and stop, settling down on their tall buildings. If they want to go out they climb to the tops of their tall buildings and enter their air vehicles. When they return, they climb out and go down into the buildings.

The truck drivers always drive at night so the smaller cars can go in the afternoon.

Hiltonian Hotel. If you want good soup it involves money. When this writer wanted to go to Philadelphia and stay a while and look around, this was the hotel where he and his traveling companions stayed for two nights.

This hotel is a well-known name in various countries of the world. It is in Europe, it is in France just as it is also in many states of the United States. Because of this the hotel is famous, it and its beauty and the hospitality shown to those who lodge there or those who eat there.

The interior of a room of this building is very spacious. The carpet on its floor is so smooth that it makes a tired person feel like lying down on it. There is a television set which shows how everything is in its own color, that is if the thing is red or green it will show it that way. There is a telephone that operates no matter what time you pick it up. The ones available in our country in many places are merely decorative. Nice mirrors are around the edges of the room as well as on top of the table they have provided in order to see whether a person looks good or bad, that is a dressing-table. If a person does not look carefully, he will not know that these are mirrors. They shine brightly and sparkle so much that it is easy for a person to use their brightness to see his intestines.

You should see the bathroom. There are three kinds of soap in it, lotion of this or that type, and wash cloths of this or that type are there. The water, whether hot or cold, runs all the time just like their water runs at any time. It is true that our room was on the fifth floor. We also used an "elevator," that is what the Europeans call a "lift," to take us up there. But especially, any time you call the employees, they seem to have been stationed in a certain place and immediately someone arrives and asks why you are calling them and "sir" does not fail to come from their mouths. They do not waste time in carrying out errands. They do not frown. If anyone sleeps in this room does not open his eyes for the next 25 hours. Indeed, one who is looking for a good hotel in these large developed countries should go and try out the Hilton Hotel people. They have their own matches and glasses and other items with their name engraved on them. There is nothing a traveler needs that is not in this hotel, such as a clock, telephone and color television. The price is forty-four dollars a night, and for two people fifty-nine dollars. No one will come out and pay fifteen dollars per person. The taxi fare is not included. They are terrible. That hotel helped to make Philadelphia a beautiful place and continues to do so.

Indeed it has been demonstrated that Philadelphia used to be the American capital because anything in the world that you can name has been used to bring important or beautiful things to it.

15. Connecticut

This is the state I lived in during this trip. It is a very hot state during the summer, so that I could sometimes wear only a singlet when playing ball and having fun with the children. On some mornings I woke up and did what is called "jogging" in order to reduce the size of my stomach that was trying to get too big on account of the good food and drink I was enjoying.

The quarters where I stayed belonged to the large old university, Yale, whose name is well known. The state is famous because it is a great school of higher learning which is famous in America and in the world. When you refer to the large city of Yale you know that it is the university that is being referred to in another way. For example, it is like the place called Nsukka because the town of Nsukka grew up because of the great school, the university of Nigeria, that is located in it.

Besides Yale University, there are also other large schools including New Haven University and Southern Connecticut College which are among those with well known and famous names.

16. Yale University

As I said, the town is called Yale because of the university located there. This university that was started long ago is one of seven universities that are among the best in America, called in English "Ivy League" universities. The others are Harvard, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia and Cornell. The land on which this university was built is very large. Some of its buildings resemble cathedrals and have steeples on top. There are two places I often frequented in this university. One was the library and the other was the music department. The library building was very tall, eleven stories high, and had something like four stories below ground.

They told me that there were more than 7,000 books in their library. That means that if all the Igbo people, including children, adults and young boys and girls, toddlers and babes in arms, were to go there, everyone would be able, each and every one, to have one book. Because of the huge number of books they have and others that people are sending them every day, they have no space to put the books. What they do now in order to take in new books and put them in the library, is to take pictures of the books and take what they call the negative, put them in a small envelope and write their names and numbers on them. The one who wants to read one of these books gives its name, they give him the film, he goes to the viewing-machine where the films are put in for reading, and then he reads.

I did not want to be told in vain how this was done. I asked them about the Northwestern University calendar, which I wanted to read about. They brought out a small envelope and took out the film that was in it. I wrote out a receipt for them, and they gave it to me. I went to a viewing-machine and put in

the film. As I put it in and turned on the machine, the letters came out very large. I scrolled down the machine I saw the writing. After I had adjusted it, I turned it with my right hand and saw everything that was written in the calendar. Finally it started to look like a movie that was interesting to watch and also beautiful to read. In this way I finished reading what I wanted in the university calendar, which was larger than that of Nsukka or Ibadan.

As I went out and looked around, I saw that there were copy machines everywhere. In one small room you could have two or three of them. You put in your money, you put in the paper you want photocopied, you press a button and the picture comes out. That photostat costs only five cents, which is about four of our kobo. There is no one supervising it. One uses the lift to go up and down in those buildings. If one wants to go by stairs he will not know when he has reached the top because their stairs are beautiful.

They have two kinds of libraries, for undergraduates and graduates. There is a road between them. Therefore they use an underground road called a tunnel to cross over from one to the other.

From the libraries I went to the music department. Many departments have their own book depositories or libraries. The setup in the large university library is the same in this department. They have more than 1,110,000 books. There is no music book or one whose name is known that you don't see there. Even music books handwritten by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Schumann and others are all there. If a book is not found right away, a photocopy of that book will be there. There are 46 books on Bach there. Many of their books are located up very high and others are in very low places. When you want a book, its name is called and they will get it immediately.

When I saw this, I was dumbfounded. I asked them if there was a place for teaching and if there were musical instruments there. They told me there was a separate place for musical instruments. I later went and saw it. I asked about how many students and teachers there were in the music department. The students, upperclassmen and beginners in that department numbered 205 to 300. There are many teachers there. The list of teachers in that department of the school (only those that had Ph.D and in front of the school one and a half quarters). This shows the number of those teaching various musical instruments.

Instruments/Courses of Study	Number of teachers
Piano	17
Organ	17
Composition	14
Voice	17
Violin	25

'cello	9
Double bass	6
Guitar	2
Conducting Orchestra	5
Conducting choral	4
Flute	7
Clarinet	5
Bassoon	3
French horn	4
Trumpet	6
Trombone	2
Percussion	5
Harp	1

This will show how seriously they take their studies. It is here that one of our current music professors, Prof. Laz. Ekwueme, studied.

When I left there, I went to the place where they keep their various musical instruments, from the very old ones to those that are manufactured in these days. There is one thing that they have orgnized. They do not purchase instruments for the students. Each student purchases his own, brings it and comes to his lessons. Those that the school purchases are the very heavy ones, like the organ and the piano, which one student cannot purchase and carry around.

In the building where they keep these musical instruments, which is at 15 Hillhouse Avenue there at Yale, I saw various instruments, those that had become rusty with age since they were obtained and those of today. They had been decorated, placed side by side, and marked as to when some of them were first obtained and where they obtained them.

Some of those song books I saw and where they came from and when they were obtained were these, including the new ones:

1. Violin Oxford 1684
2. Keyed bugle Boston 1853
3. Flute N.Y. 1860
4. Clarinet 1830
5. Hardanger Pele Norwegian 1925
6. Bowed zither 1856
7. Mayuri India
8. Kolo (bowed zither) Japan
9. Dobachi resting bell - Japan
10. Gong bronze S. E. Asia
11. Sheng - China 1100 B. C.

12. Hua gu (Barrel drum) China
13. Sansa (linguaphone) ubo aka Sudan
14. Tambura Sudan
15. Pi/pa China (206 B. C. - 220 A. D.)
16. Square Piano Boston 1820
19. Harpsichord Antwerp 1640
20. Double Qin Virginal China 220 A. D.

These will serve as examples. There are great numbers of them and they come from various countries of the world. If you want to view them you go to the building where they are shown during the time it is open. Their building is not a museum but a viewing building to see how those musical instruments look, both the new and the old. Anyone who wants one should go and buy in the place where they are sold.

Yale University is among those who do not seem to seek out many students or changes in things, however, the number of students they have now is around 11,000 or more. They learn ancient languages there like Hebrew and Latin. But in reality, they have dealt with all of these things for a long time.

There is one good place I also visited at Yale University, for example. I went to the place they call the "admissions office" where new students are admitted who already have their first degree. When I arrived there the workers were on their afternoon break, around one o'clock in the afternoon. I saw 14 tables there, with telephones on them. The workers for these tables had gone out, with only one female worker remaining. You should have seen it! When the phones rang, this woman went to theirs, answered, smiled, hung up and came and gave students the papers they needed with a pleasant face, and also went here and there finding someone and looking for what he needed. If there was something she was unable to do, she told the person to wait a bit or return later. This really held my attention because this woman did it with a pleasant face and kind heart because that is the way they do their work.

17 Southern Connecticut College

After I went to Yale University I also went to a large college whose name is shown above. I went there to ask them how to obtain their calendar and their document to apply for admission. When I got there and asked them where I could get these things, without wasting time they pointed out for me where these things were and brought me all the explanatory papers concerning that great school. I wasted no time in thanking them well. This reminded me of the day I went from Owere to Zaria to get this type of document from them. When I arrived, asking questions was difficult. When I got the information, they told me to go and pay a fee and then go to the place where I could obtain the admissions document. When

I finally went where I could obtain the document, the person who was giving them said that he was tired and that I should return that night. Imagine that! We still have a long way to go to organize ourselves and our lives in our land.

It was this Southern Connecticut College where my wife studied a bit when she came back to America the second time until I myself returned and brought our children and picked her up and we then went to Buffalo in New York state.

18 The New Haven Airport

The chief city in Connecticut is New Haven. Like the chief cities of other states, this one has an airport. Because of this state's closeness to New York, its airport is not very large. Not that it is not larger than ours at Port Harcourt but in their eyes it is small.

When I arrived there, I and those with me saw various small airplanes. I counted 64 airplanes on the ground at once. Some of them were two-seaters or one-seaters, some were also larger than our F27s which do not carry many people. Some people own several of these airplanes. Those who own them come and park their cars and then take their planes and fly off. They fly around and go wherever they want, land, park the plane and enter their automobiles and go home. As we were watching, there was one young woman who landed a plane but time went by and she did not know how to turn off the engine. As she stayed there pushing buttons, someone in the tower realized that there was a problem and sent someone to run and help her turn off the engine of the plane and alight. Now we have a woman, Chinyere Onyenucheya who flies airplanes with ease, so that I said perhaps she had this kiind of difficulty before she became an expert pilot.

19 Peabody Museum

Whoever travels as a tourist many times may know more than one who lives in the land where some things are but has not had a chance to go around and see some things. Another place I went to see was a place where a traveler who toured Connecticut but did not get around to would know that he had missed something. That was none other than the place where they kept their antiquities, which they called "Peabody Museum."

This museum was something different, beautiful and very large. It was bigger than the school compounds of our colleges. There was nothing one could name--from wet sand to rocks used for constructing buildings, from grasshoppers to hippopotamuses, from large toads to elephants and small things that run about, those that climb, those that chew and those that kill and those that swallow people --that was not there. Some indeed had been dried, some were drawings, while others had been sculpted or photographed. Many of those things were as old as the world, up to those that can be seen today. Even human skulls and dried human heads were there.

On certain days and times you can go there, pay a fee and have a guided tour. But the day that my friends and I went was not one of those days. It was a day to "go around on your own without paying a fee."

Among the things I saw were these:

1. Types of creatures and animals that resembled humans
2. Things that help in farm work - earthworms and snails of various kinds and their shells
3. Things that cause people serious illness or various kinds of tapeworms, mosquitoes, groups of lice, scorpions, spiders, beetles, flies, cockroaches, various kinds of caterpillars both good and bad
4. Various kinds of fish.
5. Various kinds of tortoises
6. Water lizards - the largest one there they called "Thunder Lizard," whose skull was very big but whose head was small. I quickly went 19 paces around it from its tail to its head.
7. Various crocodiles. One they called "African Crocodile" was there that was 67 feet long, 16 feet tall and 8 and weighed 35 tons.
8. Various types of birds. There was a special one they called "Giant Moa" from New Zealand and which was 10 feet long and 8 and a half feet in height. There was also one they called "Otisville Mastodon" whose skull was seen in the doorway of a man called Mr. Anrew in New York, and they bought the skull of this bird from him, which resembled an elephant, for \$750.
9. Antelopes, horses, (kwara), various kinds of monkeys that resembled humans and some that were frightening. Even the squirrels, larger squirrels and rats were there.
10. Various kinds of (mkpo) and snails and similar creatures.
11. Moulded things that came from various parts of the world.
12. Carved things were also there that like the moulded things came from all around the world wherever they could find them.

To go completely around the place would take about three hours. Some of these items were inside of glass cases. If you did not look closely you would not realize it. Some were on high shelves, some were on very low shelves. You should have seen it. To travel there and go and see these things is worth doing.

20 Automobiles

To say something concerning automobiles in America is like talking about how many people there are in Nigeria. As a way to describe the number of vehicles there, if there were around five people in one household, you know that there would be around three vehicles in that household.

There is no type of automobile that is not found there. If there is a vehicle that comes out in one year, know that it is in America. There are small vehicles

that can carry ten people at once. There are those that carry two people. There is no vehicle you can name that is not found in the country of America. Even their taxi vehicles called limousines are as plentiful as vehicles that are "Chevrolets."

These vehicles absolutely fill America:

1. Mercury
2. Dodge
3. Buick
4. Volvo (ma) 144, 145, 164, 242, 244 and 245
5. Volkswagen
6. Cadillac
7. Ford
8. Mazda
9. Impala (Chevrolet)
10. Mustang
11. Plymouth
12. Mercedes Benz
13. Chrysler
14. Century
15. Fiat
16. Toyota
17. Lincoln Continental
18. Peugeot
19. Datsun
20. Capri
21. Pontiac
22. Pinto
23. Rolls Royce
24. Renault
25. Austin
26. Honda Accord
27. Honda Civic
28. Zephyr
29. Matador
30. Montage Ms Subaru
31. Cornette (*Corvette?*)
32. Thunderbird
33. Saab Turbo
34. Volkswagen Rabbit
35. Cadillac Fleetwood
36. Cadillac Eldorado

These automobiles are some of those this writer saw on several of the highways he drove on.

The taxis are yellow-colored and carry radios and telephones so that anyone who wants can call them and get them. Their large vehicles like trailers travel at night. The way their roads are, it does not mean that when someone comes from the right side and wants to enter the left side, the other vehicles, both those coming from ahead and those coming from behind, must stop for him. Their highways are what we call "expressway" here. When people drive on them they all will face forward in one lane. One who wants to come from the right and get on the highway and go toward the left must watch for a place in the road where he can go out on the right. When he reaches there, he drives out to the right and drives over or under and then drives across to the left. This makes the highway journey easy and it is not a matter of "stop and wait for me to go across" as we do in our country.

As we have license numbers in our country like ECW 3611, LA 7901K, IM 1433W, it is not like that in their country. One who buys his vehicle can take a personalized number as long as there is no one who already has that number. Some people will use their names, like a certain Igbo man who lives in New York whose license number is OBI-1, where his name is also Obi.

They do not usually write numbers on the front of their vehicles. These are the license numbers of some vehicles that the writer noticed. He hopes and begs that their owners will not file lawsuits against them.

Here are those numbers:

1. 989 - UHE
New York
2. Illinois
JFK 405
3. 810 OLD
New York
4. New Jersey
565 - HVD
5. Florida
GHA - 384
LEON
6. 637 - UUO
New York

7. Anerable
New York

8. OBI - 1

9. 906 - BSS
New York

Their trailers and various trucks usually have locks. They number in the millions. It is difficult to see one trailer or truck with two people in it at once like the way we have a driver and someone to help him. It is not that way there because large salaries are paid to these people, which means that it is not easy to bring in two people at one time and tell them that one person will drive and the other will accompany him. It would be wasting a lot of money.

Other factors are involved in the situation because if the vehicle breaks down, the police or tow-trucks come immediately to help and fix it so that it can proceed with its journey. In America one in four women drives an automobile. And among the blacks, one in ten drives an automobile. This will show the number of vehicles they have. Thus, if you come to any school there the number of vehicles will exceed the number of vehicles you will see in our land when you go to a ball game of the Rangers and Spartans or when you go to welcome a government official when he comes to a certain town.

Because of the many vehicles filling their country, of the petrol they consume every year one fourth comes from our land-- that is (1 million x 1,000) barrels, that is not quickly counted. Because they consume oil coming from our country, we and they are on good terms. But because we are among those called the O.P.E.C. countries that produce oil and raise the price of our oil from time to time, they do not like that at all. It makes them think that we are draining off their money. Thus there are some places where they would have helped our country or our students or people emigrating from our country and they do not help them.

It is also true that we have oil and are extracting and refining it but oil refineries in many places in their land are like one I saw in Philadelphia that exceeded the types that are in Warri and Kaduna in our land. This should teach us something. This lesson is that although it is true that they haven't really had places where oil is extracted but they have places where they refine oil they get from other lands, including ours, where some people who drive oil tankers are all parked in a stalled line waiting, it is not like this in their country. Rather if it were like this it would make the price of oil sky-high. It is not that it will not be seen. If that happened, indeed they would be really mad because their lives consist of running around.

Because of what the O.P.E.C. countries do to them, they are hoping to discover some places in the ocean areas of their land where people live. They think up ways they can drive their cars without using petrol.

There is also one thing that brings in polluted air particles that we breathe in. This is air and polluted emissions coming from many vehicles that are emitted and fill in our land. When you see these vehicles they drive you see bad exhaust fumes coming from them forcefully, pouring out and filling the air we breathe. In their land, they have begun to manufacture and are receiving vehicles that use petrol that causes soot with those hot fumes to be eliminated. This means that when they drive those vehicles, they will not give off bad fumes and the bad smells that we get in vehicles coming out of the exhaust, especially when those vehicle are very old.

Another beautiful thing regarding their automobiles that this writer saw a lot was that there was no "go slow" or great stoppage and traffic delay that we have in the developed cities in our land. There are several reasons for this. They take good care of their vehicles and there are not really many accidents. Their roads are beautiful. The traffic lights stop people and while waiting for them the green allow them to proceed. One does not come from the left and cross over to the right. One who wants to go to the left will enter from the right and then come from a road that goes above or one that goes below, and then go to the left. This allows the highway traffic to go along smoothly without stopping. It should also be mentioned that although they have horns in their vehicles, they do not sound them unless it is absolutely necessary. A person can go as far as from Owerre to Lagos without hearing the sounds of more than three or four car horns. If you see someone sounding his horn the way we do in our land, you will think that the person has gone crazy.

But things do not always go smoothly, like in nearby towns sometimes there are people who will drive into other vehicles head-on. You should see what that is like. Various vehicles being driven together on the road at the same time see the lights shining brightly like stars in the sky on a clear day. If it happens like this, no matter how jammed the traffic, the police will come. Immediately they remove the vehicles and the road becomes clear again. But among all these things the vehicles I did not see were the one-legged ones and those that drive themselves without anyone steering them.

21 The Cost of Automobiles

Automobiles in their country are not very costly. The reason is that in their land they can still find the metal used to manufacture their cars. But if they are brought in from other countries they are a bit costly, but they are still not so expensive as in our country. For example, these automobiles of theirs are very long and at the same time they consume a lot of petrol and they are too costly,

that is something like five or six thousand dollars. This is about three or four thousand naira. A vehicle like Volvo which is imported costs around twelve thousand dollars which is around seven or more thousand naira which is the price of the Peugeot 505 GR in our country. What is causing the price of these vehicles to be so high is the transportation and the fees that the customs people take for them.

Another thing is that spare parts for repair are plentiful. This means that some vehicles last as long as ten years or more. Those who tire of them pass them on to their children. Some who tire of some particular car will sell them or go to a certain place and throw sand and clay on top of them and until such time as they want to see them again. Because of the good highways and ease in buying spare parts, it is easy to buy used vehicles for a price of about two or three hundred dollars and drive them for along time before they become worn out. Because nothing is wasted in their country, if a vehicle is completely dead, they carry its shell to the factory to melt it down and re-use it.

Another thing that happens is that although one can buy spare parts, in regard to the worn-out cars the difficulty in repairing them makes it very expensive. This makes them discard such things, even automobiles, and go and buy another one.

22 Washing cars

There is another nice thing about their automobiles. That is washing them. A person can wash his vehicle without wasting time. Perhaps a person has not washed his car one time in a week. But if he wants to wash it without troubling himself, he goes to an automatic car-wash place and washes it. When he gets there, he rolls up the vehicle's windows, enters it and takes it out of gear. Immediately the machine takes away the vehicle. What you see then is water and soap going up, around and under the vehicle swishing and splashing. When the car is taken out, it has become completely clean and dry. If you see something dirty in it, there is a rubber hose that sucks out the dirt so that if you pull it out and put its mouth into the vehicle it gathers up the dirt and sucks it outside into a bucket for dirt collection.

These things I have talked about do not take much time. It takes at the most around 20 minutes. Therefore when you see a used vehicle there it looks fresh and clean.

Even though the vehicles in their country are numerous, they have rules for stopping and parking them. As for the place where you are allowed to park vehicles, they park them very well as though a ruler has been used to make lines where they can be parked. It is not everywhere that anyone can stop his vehicle and park it. When you come to a workplace or market there is a place set apart

but near it there is a meter. The person who parks his vehicle goes to the meter and puts in money. In some places it is around 20 cents or more as the person wishes to stay 30 minutes or however long he wants. (according to how long the person . . .) When one puts in his money, he winds back the meter and it starts to count (for?) the person. If someone like that overstays the meter (agufere) him he will see where it is written "violation" which shows that the person has broken the law.

There are workers, especially older women, who carry bags and supervise these meters. If they see vehicles that have stayed too long, they write the amount of the fine the person must pay and attach it to his vehicle. It becomes the duty and (oke) of that person to go where he will pay this debt and pay it or write a check and send it to those people. If the person does not do that, since the police will not take money under the table or any kind of bribe. Rather to take a bit themselves for this, if one begs them, they will forgive him.

To avoid parking vehicles near the highway where they should not be, before building offices or banks or public buildings, they will first plan places where vehicles can be parked. Some build their own buildings under or above the ground such as there are in some places in Ekoo now. These meters are also in the vicinity of "Kingsway" and "Broad Street" in our Lagos, but they are not taken seriously. If one drives into one of these parking places before going to complete his business he must get a ticket at the beginning. When he comes out he will look at the minutes or hours he stayed and from that the person pays the proper amount of money.

One good thing and must be given credit for is that they make sure that they treat everyone alike. When you come to these parking-places you see that spaces have been left so that those who are handicapped can park their cars before the others who are not handicapped, and some crazy person will try foolishly to park his own car there even if all the spaces are filled. This is good training for people to help each other. Because of these things it makes the traffic go smoothly. It will be important for the people of our country to learn this and then make the architects provide space where one can park a car either nearby, on the street, on top of the building or inside or underground.

There are also various cars that are used to carry loads. Some are workers' trucks that are like pickups. Some have written on them "U HAUL," which means "you haul" or carry it yourself. If a person is driving his truck to another town, he will rent one of these and pack his belongings [in it] and then take their vehicle, attach or fasten it to the rear of his own car, then carry his belongings home, unfasten the vehicle, call the owners on the phone and they come and pick up the vehicle. This is how they carry on their lives and it goes easily for them.

23 Their highways

For a tourist, the first thing that pleases him most to see and travel on is the highways of the country. Apart from these roads that we call "Express way" that are built in our country now, like the one from Ibadan in Oyo State to Lagos, we have not had good straight roads that have been built well like they have in America. They call them "highways."

All of their highways have been divided into two parts, for going and returning. On many roads when you come to the section for those who are going and the one for those who are returning, they have also divided it three ways so that three or four or six cars in some places will be going forward at once. For those who are returning it is the same.

When it comes to the highway division, between right and left, in many places they use a narrow metal thing to divide it on two sides. On their roads they do not make it so that you come from the right and cross over to the left. In our country it is done that way, so that the cars of those who are driving on the highway stop for the one who is going to the left. Don't forget that this often causes accidents when some cars collide head-on. There is no stopping allowed on their highways, unless some is having trouble. As has been said before, in the vehicle one who goes from the left to the right will leave where the road is also on the right but comes from underground or above and drives around and then goes across to the left where he wants to go. There is no house close to the highway. But people do live near the bushes that divide the highways and separate them. One who drives on the highway and wants to leave or go to a certain town or other place where people live will watch out for signs marking the highway exits and the names of various towns.

Their highways are straight and smooth. There is no dirt on them because they use vehicles to sweep them every morning. They do not want or allow litter on their highways just as it is also important to them to see that everything having to do with every road there is clean. In some places if you see a vehicle with something falling out of it or anything being thrown out of it, they catch the driver of the vehicle and he is made to pay a fine.

In some places their highways are both elevated and below ground, and trains also run between them. You cross a bridge without knowing it sometimes because they are wide. Going from New York to Washington, which is the capital city of America, you drive across a place where the highway is long and goes under water. This is what is called a tunnel. The highway goes under the water and a bridge goes above the water with train tracks also on top of it. If you look carefully and see all these things running at once, you will wonder if God built these things for them or was it the (human) brain that they used to learn and discover while also thinking up other ways and other things to create. Their

bridges are made of only iron. When they build, they build well. They build for tomorrow and future generations.

You might also ask how they get enough money to make their highways so beautiful? They levy taxes on their roads the way we used to collect on the Niger Bridge joining Onicha and Asaba and are now collecting on the highway between Ibadan and Lagos. They call the place where they stop all vehicles to collect the tax "toll gate," that is a road tax gate, for example, from New Haven, Connecticut to New York is 86 miles, and there are five toll gates like this. At the second of them you pay 25 cents in American money (around 20 kobo). In one you pay 40 cents. In another you pay 75 cents. In the last one before entering New York you pay one dollar, before a person arrives there, he is informed by notices they post along the way to tell him to be prepared to pay this tax. There are fourteen lanes that the vehicles go through to pay the tax in one place. There is a place for small vehicles to go through and another set aside for trucks and trailers. If a person happens to have small change that will be sufficient in a place like where one pays 25 cents, if that person who has it and does not need change, he will go through the gate where it is written "exact change." But if that person does not have the money and will need change, there is also a gate he will go through and he is given change before he proceeds. At the exit here where one does not seek or give change there is an iron strip that one strikes in going over its path. There is also a wooden strip blocking the way that causes every car to proceed cautiously until it rises and the car can go across. Highway lights for the vehicles are there also. They shine red so that the person must stop and bring out his money. Sufficient money, not being counterfeit, is put into the metal box, the lights shine green and the long wooden or metal bar rises up, the person crosses over it and it closes again when the light turns red for the next person. But if one puts his money in the metal box, as soon as it registers the money is not enough or it is counterfeit, the machine will fail to work for that person. A red light will flash and the long wooden or metal gate that blocks the road will stand firmly like a hunter facing an animal, or like a policeman standing at attention waiting for his boss. But when it is done right it raises its head like one who has killed a soldier stronger than he.

If someone has a bill he wants to change, he goes to the place where there is a person who will give him change before he goes through. Anyone who puts in bad money or insufficient money will not drive through. And if the person tries to force his way, the toll box will sound a loud alarm which will make a policeman arrive promptly. The policeman apprehends the person and will make him pay a heavy fine or take him off to jail.

One can not fully describe their highways without mentioning a few things in connection with them. One of them is the place for petrol that they call "gas station." The gas station is along the big highway but it is not close in the same way that ours are. For drivers on their roads, they use signboards to show

motorists where the gas stations are. They also use the same method, by drawing a fork and a knife, to show where restaurants are. These gas stations and restaurants are not far from each other. Also, a person can use cash or check to buy gas without any trouble. If a person has neither of these, he can use a credit card that he can get at the bank to buy whatever he wants.

Another important thing comes to mind concerning their highways. This is that they have signs showing the limits appropriate for cars being driven at excessive speeds. In several states in their land, vehicles may not be driven more than 55 miles an hour--that is 88 kilometers an hour in our country. But there are vehicles that are allowed to drive faster, such as those of the police, hospital vehicles called "ambulances," and fire engines. Also, when these vehicles start to come through, everyone must give them space to drive through. The policemen also have radios, telephones and radar to identify any driver who is speeding. If someone is driving too fast they chase him down and block his path to stop him and make him pay a fine or take him to court.

Sometimes if a person drives without stopping they can, if there is a radio in that person's car, make it go off from there and give that person the message that he should stop or do whatever they tell him. If the person stops that way, they don't come right out and arrest him. The reason for this is that many people drive around carrying guns. If a policeman wants to arrest him in that case, the person will be told to come out. When he comes out they watch him with their hands in their back pockets where they keep their guns. If the person acts aggressive they can shoot him down. But if they observe the person and he is not carrying anything, they quietly come out and arrest him. In some states a person who goes more than one mile (over the limit) pays a fine of five dollars; for ten miles he pays fifty dollars. They do these things to protect people. A drunk person can not drive on their highways. If anything happens, they first check the person's breath. If the breath smells like alcohol, the person is lost. Perhaps before 50 years from today we will reach the place they are in today?

24 Telephone

There are several things that give happiness and pleasure that a person has in his workplace or any office or house where a person lives. One of these things is the telephone. Before the war in our country, the ones we had were working very well. Maybe workers at that time worked with the fear of God. We know how this situation is now. One thing good about things now is that one does not have to get the permission of an operator before being connected with the one with whom he wants to talk. But in spite of this, before one can reach Lagos from Imo many times it is like going through hell out. When you call you are told that the line to Lagos is blocked. If it is like this in Lagos, how much more difficult is it to reach another town outside Lagos.

In America the telephone service is wonderful. There, they give excellent service for transmitting messages at any time. You do not hear that the line is blocked. When you call anyone, you get what you want. The telephone rests on the table in every office. It is in every household that desires it. If one does not have it and wants it, he does not have to wait an excessively long time to receive it. Some people have several in their rooms and it is included in places where they stay temporarily.

The way it is in their land, telephone does everything except, to take food and put it in their mouths for them. They use it to call the police, the hospital, the firemen. They use it to buy things and call the food-sellers to bring them food. They use it to call for anything they need. A man and his brothers can live in that land more than one thousand miles apart but every day they can talk to each other on the telephone.

If one does not have a telephone in his house, he has not lost much (the market has not completely failed him). They have phone booths in many places including on the highway, in restaurants and gas stations and rest areas. One who has made the effort to go there puts in ten cents (something like our 7 kobo) or as much as is necessary, according to the distance of the place that person has called. If one is not carrying money he can call the person he wants to talk to and tell him to pay. That is what they call "Collect Call."

However, where there are good things, bad things are there as well. Sometimes they use the phone to find out where a person they want to kill is living. Sometimes they use the phone to frighten the person they want. However, the good things they use the phone to do are more numerous than the bad things they use it to do. When this writer was going around to shop in several places he later forgot his coat in one of them. It was by means of the telephone that he searched for it and immediately asked the store where his coat was that he had forgotten. This makes unnecessary much driving around in the car and going to people's houses and not finding it there, because before a person goes to his friend's house he first calls on the phone to find out if that person is at home. They work use the phone to do a lot of work.

25 Banks

As in wealthy countries, they have many banks or financial institutions of various kinds. There is no well-known bank that does not exist in their land, whether it be First Bank, Colonial Bank, Barclays Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, Union Bank, or many others.

From one main highway to another there can be one or more banks. It does not take much time to withdraw money and deposit. A person does not stay too long in their banks in withdrawing or depositing in money; he stays 5 or 8

minutes, then picks up his bag and goes out. I don't know what that person would be doing to stay ten minutes because they have many of these banks, so that there are not many people crowding into one of them at the same time. Also, the people who work there do not sit down or rest until they see that they have served everyone who has come. Everyone who comes stays in line. It does not matter whether you are great or small, there is no favoritism. Everyone is received according to the time he has come and everyone stays in line until his turn comes. If one stays in this line it is not difficult to see him and everyone is taken care of. The first thing they say to the customer is, "Can I help you?" which is, "Is there something I can do for you?" The person will tell them "Sure," that is, "Yes, there is." Without wasting the person's time they will serve the person quickly and he leaves. You tell them "Thank you" and they say, "You are welcome," which means that they will receive you if you come back again. Also, they put on a smiling face or what resembles a smiling face to welcome everyone in order to see that the person comes back again.

The reason for this is that many banks, even electricity and water companies and news media, are owned by individuals. They do not belong to the government where people work like white-collar workers. In these banks a person is paid according to the way he works. One who does not work as desired is terminated.

Another good thing about their banks is that one can pay his bills or deposit his money without entering the bank building. This is what they call "drive through." What it means is that the person will stay in his car and tell them what he wants, and before he reaches the end of the building they have done what he asks for, he drives away, and another person takes his place. In this way a trip to the bank becomes a thing of smiles and pleasure and not a matter of sitting and wasting time.

When I was there, a friend of mine from another state had sent me a check. When I took it to a bank, no one asked me who I was and who gave me the check. The one who gave me the check had no account in that bank but in less than four minutes they had already given me the money, I was happy and went out because they knew that they would surely get the money.

There are also other easy ways a person can get his money quickly that I did not completely look into. But the good thing is that they use their computers to do so many things, and to know how much money a person has in his account. This does not waste a second. When they find it out, without wasting time they give the person the money he wants just as they know and do many other things like filling in the person's name on an airplane ticket and many other things. I expect that in this way they have started bringing in this type of computer to Lagos and will persevere in making it stable and also be sufficient for every state and bank. If this is done, the trouble we have in waiting several hours and the

scorn and "hassle" and abuse received from bank workers will be reduced. This will cause us not to have to be reduced to tears and grind our teeth when we go to the bank, but will make it like a game between a puppy and its mother.

26 Electricity and Water

There are three things that we know sustain life. The first is air, the next is water and another is food. Apart from fruit which we eat raw, many other things we eat are cooked. the cooking of food involves the use of fire. Seeing at night also involves the use of light. One must look for a way to be (na oku di). In their land, cold does not affect people because they have heat by means of electricity. That means that when you count in food, you have to include electricity as something that sustains life.

In their land, the way they make electricity and water is perfect. They operate for 24 hours a day. Their electricity does not go off and their water does not stop flowing. Even on top of their highest buildings water flows there smoothly just as it flows on the first floor. One cannot tell whether a building is high or low. As I said about my trip to the World Trade Center, which is a large building of 107 stories, I stayed there and made a phone call, ate food and went to the water tap and turned it on and it gushed out freely and I drank the water there.

27 Their Food

Americans eat a lot of food. They also have a lot of different kinds of food and they eat it the way they like it. There are various eating-places whose names are well known. Some of the names of these restaurants that are seen along the highways and places where petrol is sold are: Burger King, Macdonald's, Gino's, and Wendy's.

Here where food is sold, a person can enter and buy his food and eat it there, wipe his mouth and leave. Anyone who wants to can go into the "drive thru," which is where you stay in the car and the food is brought to the person, he pays the price, takes it away with him and eats it on the road if he wants. If you go inside these eating-places, as in all their places you stand in line and they sell each one what he wants. When you come, they have a board where is written the items they have and their prices. When the person selects the thing he wants, the girl he tells this to speaks it into a microphone and the person in the kitchen assembles them and packs them up. In the place where the person gives his order there is a machine where the seller presses buttons showing the buyer how much money he has spent for what he has bought, his food is brought out on a tray and given to him, he pays the bill and goes and sits down and starts to enjoy his food. After eating, the person goes to the trash receptacle, pushes it open with his foot, it opens and he throws in all the debris there. He then goes into the room where

there is sweet-smelling lotion and he washes his hands and mouth. If he also wants to use the toilet, he goes and when he is finished washing his face and hands he smells good and then goes out.

None of their food is the kind that is prepared with bare hands like when women in our land sell akara or shuya that cause many people, when they chew them, to take in the germs of stomach sickness. They sanitize them well with the help of various machines. They pour milk and all drinks into closed paper cups so that when a person finishes drinking it he throws it in the trash container. They also advocate by means of writing on the outside of their cups that everyone should help in keeping America clean. Their forks and spoons and salt and sugar and pepper are completely wrapped in transparent paper. A person takes his own, opens it and uses it to eat with. When he is finished eating, he throws it in the trash container.

Various types of food can be seen in the numerous food markets they call "grocery shops." A person entering one of them will see these foods, whose English names are:

Oranges, grapes, lemons, limes, apples, peaches, prime plums, nectarines, peppers (red, hot, green), corn, lettuce, watermelon, beets, carrots, cauliflower, green squash, eggs, eggplants, collard greens, mustard, turnips, bananas, batata calabanza (ukoro/eel), maize, plantains, onions, yams, potatoes, garlic and pumpkins.

The types of markets are similar to Kingsway in Lagos. Various kinds of meats are also in them as well as other small named things that people eat. When you enter them they are really cold, which makes the vegetables and other things stay fresh as they should be before they sell them. Their milk and all the fruit and drinks are in large containers. You come and buy the ones you want.

In some of these shops they also have electrical, coin-operated machines filled with small items for sale, such as these: Cigarettes (Marlboro, Viceroy, Winston Graven A), sweets, chewing gum, coffee tea, sugar.

The one who wants something can put in his money and press whichever button he wants, pay its full price and it falls out.

It is true that they pay taxes on anything they buy but this does not apply to children's clothing and food bought at the grocery stores. But if someone goes to a hotel to eat, he pays a tax there. Their food is abundant in meat and fish with small pieces and fragments mixed in like potato and rice and other small items.

I went several times to eat what they call "burger king," which is bread with

various kinds of meat and other tasty things put in it. If one finishes it, drinks milk and orange or grape drink, and then drinks plain water or soda, his stomach will be full.

28 Hotel Food

Although I ate a lot of their food both on the road and at gas stations, I thought that this was not enough for me. I was also taken to a certain restaurant that was on the edge of a river.

When we got there, I saw people working there who all wore white garments, going around and escorting people as they do at important feasts ordered by our governor or president. These people also escorted us to an unoccupied table. I cannot fully describe the lights in that restaurant and how they shone. But to a person sitting there it would be like lights burning in paradise. Even the children we had brought with us kept on looking up and down and around. I had to control myself so that people would not ask if I was new to that country. Immediately a woman hurried over and asked us what we wanted to drink, while another one talked with us about what we wanted to eat. And concerning the meat, they asked if we wanted it cooked rare. I told them that I wanted it well done.

But before they brought the food we had chosen and the wine, they pointed out to us a place where there were small tasty items of various kinds of food to be used as appetizers. I was surprised because there were two tables filled with these things. When I first saw these things I was amazed. I mentally counted all those things that were brought out, and the things that were for chewing, for eating, and for licking came to 46. Even though I was tired I carried a plate like my friends and swore that I would sample everything and eat or chew them whether I knew their names or not. One thing I felt encouraged about was that they would not kill me. Some of those things they set out as appetizers were: bread, lettuce, hot pepper, beets, Greek olives, macaroni salad, potato salad, tomatoes, carrots, shrimp, cantalope, lamb ribs, bacon bits, cucumber, mushroom, beans, sweet corn, celery, string beans, cheese, new roast beef, chicken, fish fillet, ham, cheese, whopper with cheese, cheeseburger, hamburger, French fries, onion rings, shakes, iced tea, orange, hot apple pie.

All of these things were there, including some that were wrapped in paper and bits of good-smelling things that were put in salad, both French and Italian items and those that were white, those that were black, those that were red and other things I will not be able to describe. Because I wanted to taste all of these things, when I had finished taking them my plate was full. I tried to taste them, both the sweet and the bitter ones. After I had tasted these things my stomach was full. Those who have gone to the Eko Hotel in Lagos will understand this type of thing a little bit. What is important to tell is that they are very careful about what

they eat, preparing it well and providing the customer with many pleasing and varied things to eat. This also makes them grow tall and fat like cows. Their foods are excellent, and they also eat them in a good way.

29 Their Shops

If there is one thing that is done very efficiently in America it is the buying and selling in their shops. It is true that they have some small markets like those that are open in our country on Saturdays and Sundays and various small shops, but they also have large stores where they sell many different things.

Some of these stores are called: Alexander, Caldor, Woolco, Wayside Clothing, Anderson, Anderson Little, Marshal's, Kings.

These shops are well known. They are as large as two or three Kingsway Lagos stores put together. They carry various items such as clothing, housewares, electrical equipment and other things. Because their shops are large, many people come to them just as people go to Onitsha market. So they install things that prevent thieves from getting away. Their doors are one-way, for entry only or for exit only. If you step in front of the door, it opens and you enter. Inside them they have a T.V. camera which takes a picture of everyone who enters or walks around, without the person's knowledge. If someone commits an offense or steals something, their guards who go around looking like customers will catch that person. In some stores a person enters it and pushes a button (fiom fiom) six times, and also exits in the same way.

Everything sold there is of the type that the person selects according to what he can afford, goes and pays the money and carries away his purchases. When the Christmas holidays arrive, it is wonderful. You will see the way these markets are decorated, including music that is exciting to the people. One good thing about the policy of their stores is that if someone buys something that he does not like, he can take it back and he is given back his money or another item. Even if it is a garment the person has bought and has worn a little but it does not fit well, the person can return it in the same way.

Their stores do not have bargaining, except that when winter comes on they lower the prices of warm weather clothing and in the same way when summer comes they lower the prices of winter things and sell them at a discount.

30 Following the Law

Americans are law-abiding people. They do not want to break the law. If they break the law they tell the truth about what happened. Their police know the law down to the last letter. They follow it closely and are disgusted by bribery. Rather than take a bribe, they will forgive the person.

Everyone knows the law because something like 90 people out of 100 know how to read and write to know what everyone should do or have done.

This does not show that many people do not break the law especially among themselves. But if someone is caught in something, he will have to deal with that trouble. In any public place they stay in line without anyone pushing his friend ahead or going past others to get ahead. If anyone behaves like that he will be regarded as stupid.

31 Their Houses

There is no type of house that is not found in their country. Some houses look ancient, but when you enter them you see that they are beautiful even though they have been there for many years.

Any house of theirs has another space underneath it. The space underneath their houses is call a "basement." In the basement they store things they do not want inside the house. The heating equipment is located here. The washing-machine and the drier are located here. Here also they have a place where they can spread out their clothes. The reason it is easy is that they use many appliances tailored for use in each room.

There is a building someone gave to Yale University before he died. Afterwards, these people wanted to cut another road through but this building blocked the way to this road. This building was three stories high. So they went to another place near that building and dug into the ground where that building was, then took various machines and dragged away that building, like the old "Eastern House" building, then moved it to the place where they had dug the ground and put it there, and the building stood as it was at first. This is something you must see to believe. As we have seen in tall buildings, they put escalators and elevators into these because the electric power that drives them does not fail. Many of their buildings, especially those in New York, are so tall that one cannot see the tops of them. Staring at them can make a person dizzy.

The houses where white people live are a little different from those the black people live in, in the way they want their houses and surrounding areas to be clean, more than many of those belonging to blacks. Also, the houses are difficult to obtain.

32 Post Offices

Their post office buildings are everywhere, and the boxes they use to put letters in are all along the roads. They will want to know the weight of any letter placed in an envelope before they accept it. And they will not waste a person's time in doing this. Everyone stands in line. If someone leaves the line, they

leave him until they have finished helping those standing in line. There is no one they put ahead, whether old women or children. The way their records go smoothly and quickly is wonderful. Any letter placed in their post office reaches the recipient in two days. If someone gets a telegram, when it arrives they call the person on the phone and tell him the message he has before the wire reaches the person.

If someone gets a parcel, they carry it to the person and the person signs a receipt for it before they leave. I wish that it could be done that way in our country.

33 Their Lives

Where there is something good, there is also something bad. Where there is something sweet, there is also something bitter. Where there is something straight, there can also be something crooked in it. Although some people go to church and there are churches located in their country, still those who do not go to church are numerous. They have many beautiful churches, but on Sundays they are not filled. Some go to church twice in their lives--on the day they marry and again when they die.

In the church -- "Church on the greens" where I went, I cannot forget the singing of 18-year-old youngsters. But as the service was going on and hymns were being sung, many stayed outside in the sun dressed so that they were almost naked.

There are plenty of truthful, honest people in their land but there are also plenty of liars. They also say that it is good to treat everyone the same, but blacks do not have the same say as the whites among them without first having to struggle for it.

There are buildings for various kinds of entertainment and places for games, playing ball, and restaurants for food and drink. Likewise there are "funeral homes," which are buildings where the bodies of those who have died are kept until the time for burial. These buildings are scattered among other buildings but their decorations and the flowers planted on top are prominent in front of them. One can not forget these buildings.

Just as there are many good people, there are also plenty of bad people in their country. Many of them carry guns which they use to shoot and kill others. There are some who kidnap young girls and do evil things to them without their consent and sometimes even kill them. There are thieves among them and they steal from big banks from which they can get a lot of money.

America is large because it is filled with people from all parts of the world. American people have their hands in all countries of the world in order to make

their power known and to make them honored. They reach out to everyone by reading the news on television. They train people to use sign language to explain to the deaf what is happening. They spend money to send out their messages or anything else. Sometimes they use airplanes to announce their products for sale by using jets. When exhaust smoke gushes out from behind it, writing appears in the sky.

Americans leave no stone unturned in order to discover hidden things like the Watergate scandal in Washington. There is no city where their detectives (the FBI) do not have a presence. Their detectives can come in any manner. They can stay as long as they please and do any kind of work in order to find what they are looking for. They are awesome.

Americans do their work as it should be done, they take their work seriously, while eating good food. Most importantly, they do various kinds of research in order to discover anything that will contribute to knowledge and discoveries and the welfare of the people. They do not drink alcohol during work hours. They do not buy and consume drugs any way they want. When I was there, I had a headache but I could not buy any pills in pharmacies, which are everywhere. What caused this? The doctor must examine the person to find out what is wrong with him before he writes a prescription which he then goes and buys. The pharmacists will not sell to the person if they do not see that it is the correct medicine that the doctor says the patient should buy.

When they finish their work they rest by various recreational means which they use to make themselves happy and thus live longer. Their hospitals are also numerous and are top notch.

As a country they have these times as holidays from their work. These times are:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. New Year | January 1 |
| 2. George Washington's birthday | February 22 |
| 3. Memorial Day (to remember those killed in war) | May 30 |
| 4. Independence Day | July 4 |
| 5. Labor Day, first Monday in September | |
| 6. Day for remembering those who fought in the big war | November 11 |
| 7. Thanksgiving, fourth Thursday in November | |
| 8. Christmas | December 25 |

34 Conclusion

On this 25-day journey, I saw many things, went to many places and also ate many things I had not seen before. I also heard many kinds of stories. The money I spent on the journey was not wasted, nor was the time I spent there. I

went and then returned. But it is said that the animal that carries its child does not run badly. No matter what, a man's country is his country. After you travel, you will return.

It is good for a person to travel out. That is why the he-goat, after traveling, comes out and puts its nose in the air and says that the journey was great, and that is why the well-traveled child is more knowledgeable than the gray-haired adult. America is great. It would be good if everyone could visit it. In conclusion, I will use the words of John F. Kennedy of America who spoke on behalf of Americans and the whole world in words that I would use to advise all of us in our land:

Therefore, my Igbo compatriots in Nigeria,
Ask not what your country can do for you:
Ask what you can do for your country.
My fellow Nigerians, ask not
What Nigeria can do for you
But let us join together
To see what we can do
For the welfare of our country and of all humanity.

References

1. Time Magazine April 7, 1980
2. World Population Data Sheet
Population Reference Bureau, 1980

Nkem Goes to America

Questions:

1. America is made up of how many states?
2. What documents must a person obtain to allow him to enter other countries, aside from the passport?
3. Write the name of the airplane Nkem used to go on this journey.
4. How many people can the DC 10 and the Airbus A 300 planes carry?
5. From Lagos to New York, about how many air miles is it?
6. About how many hours of flight does that journey take?
7. Explain and write what is seen in the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

8. Which people caused Nkem's journey to take place?
9. Where did the people who invited Nkem live?
10. Nkem traveled to five states; what were the names of those states and the other names they were called?
11. Which were the places that Nkem visited in New York?
12. What was the place he also went to see in Washington D. C.?
13. Which places did he also go to visit in Philadelphia and Connecticut?
14. Write at least seven things Nkem mentioned in them.
15. What do you understand by "baseball?"
16. Where is "Yankee Stadium?"
17. What is the "Department of Correction?"
18. What is the name of the world meetingplace that is located in New York?
19. Who started to build this building?
20. Which year was this?
21. This building was built near the river in New York. What is the name of this river?
22. How high is this building?
23. How much money did it cost to erect this building?
24. Who supplied this money?
25. How are the various tasks divided in this building?
26. How many countries have the important authority called "Veto Power" in this institution?
27. Write the names of these countries and also write what caused them to have this type of authority.
28. How many languages are spoken in this institution?
29. Which languages are they?
30. What do they do in the "meditation room"?
31. How many floors does the "World Trade Center" have?
32. There are two streets facing the World Trade Center. What is the name of these two streets?
33. How does one climb up in these tall buildings?
34. What goes on inside them?

35. What helps people to look around and see New York from the top of this building?
36. What is the position of Washington, D.C. in America?
37. How about the height of the buildings in Washington, D. C.?
38. There are well-known buildings in Washington, D.C.? What are their names?
39. What is Arlington Memorial Cemetery?
40. Explain what the place is like.
41. What is the difference between it and the places we have that resemble it?
42. How much money does it cost to give it over to the U. S. Government?
43. Write the names of about three people whose graves are located there.
44. What is written on the grave of John F. Kennedy?
45. What did Nkem do when he reached his grave?
46. What else did he do to remember the place?
47. Write at least three things that a person coming to the cemetery is expected to do.
48. What is the official address where one receives the pass before going into the cemetery?
49. Complete the way Nkem explained about the cemetery. He said, "They changed a place of tears" [into a place of spectacular beauty]
50. Where is the "White House"?
51. What year did Nigeria start to imitate presidential government?
52. What is a "Capitol"?
53. Some animals can be seen in the area in front of the White House. What type of animals are they?
54. What does Nkem say that watching them does?
55. A person or a guest may enter any place in the White House except where?
56. What is the "Jefferson Memorial"?
57. Some banks in Philadelphia are well known. Write five of them.
58. What is the name of a famous American university in Philadelphia?
59. Tell how one can recognize new students entering that university.
60. What is the name of the trolley which is the electric train that carries people to the zoo there?

61. How did Nkem describe how it was for a person entering and leaving the zoo?
62. There were places where an able-bodied person was not allowed to park his vehicle. What kind of people are allowed there?
63. Do you think that customs and traditions like this are good?
64. What is the name of the large bell they have there?
65. What does this bell remind them of?
66. What is it like on the inside of one of the rooms?
67. What is the name of a large hotel in Philadelphia?
68. What is "jogging"?
69. What caused Nkem to join in doing this?
70. What are the names of two famous schools in Connecticut?
71. It is said that Yale University is among the seven outstanding universities in America. What are they called?
72. Write the names of these universities.
73. How many schools did Yale University have at that time?
74. Based on the total number of those who teach various musical instruments, add up and write the number of teachers teaching in the Yale Music Department?
75. There is one well known Igbo professor of music who studied there. What is his name?
76. What is the total number of music students there?
77. Write the names of at least ten of the musical instruments that they have there.
78. Who owns and purchases these musical instruments?
79. What did Nkem say about the girl he saw in an office there during the short vacation of the workers?
80. Should we be working in that manner or should we not?
81. Nkem said that his wife went to school at Southern Connecticut College when she went to America on which journey?
82. Explain how Nkem described the New Haven Airport.
83. Which Igbo woman was mentioned by name as an airplane pilot?
84. What do you think made him use this person as an example?

85. How many airplanes did he count in the airport at that time?
86. Write at least eight things one can see in the museum.
87. What is the length and weight of the crocodile that is called "African crocodile?"
88. How tall is the New Zealand bird that is called the "Giant Moa?"
89. About how many hours would it take for a person to go through all of that museum?
90. Write the names of at least 20 motor vehicles found in America.
91. Can a person take any number he likes and write it on his vehicle?
92. What is the number of people in America who own cars and those who do not own them?
93. Why is it that only the driver drives the trailers and trucks rather than having someone with him like the road conductors we have here?
94. What is O.P.E.C. and what does it mean?
95. What makes America like our country and why is it that their sojourns in our country do not go smoothly in regard to oil?
96. Which place was mentioned where the Americans produce petroleum, which is gas in their land?
97. Why do their vehicles last many years before they break down?
98. What kind of car did Nkem say he did not see?
99. Why do you think that their cars do not cost a lot there but they cost a lot in our country?
100. Why do they not waste their time repairing cars that are badly damaged?
101. Tell about the machines that wash their vehicles.
102. How much time does it take to wash a car by machine?
103. What is the name of the vehicle they use to carry loads?
104. What are some of the places that car owners build in which to park their cars?
105. By what name is it said that they call their highways?
106. What do you think makes them not to have stop signs on their roads?
107. What conditions exist in traveling on their highways that help them to go well and happily?
108. Do they drive on the right or on the left?

109. What do they do when they want to go across from left to right?
110. What do the various signs do for them?
111. It is said that they build their roads very firmly. What else do they attach
112. What is a "toll gate?"
113. What happens to someone who does not put in enough money or puts in counterfeit money?
114. How do the police talk to a person who is in his vehicle?
115. What happens there to the person who drinks alcohol while driving?
116. What is the benefit of the telephone?
117. What is the difference between American telephones and our own?
118. What is a "collect call?"
119. Write some things they use the telephone to do over there.
120. Tell how Nkem was able to retrieve his bag that he forgot in one of their stores.
121. What is a bank?
122. Write the names of some American banks that were listed in this book.
123. How were they built?
124. About how long does it take for a person to enter one of their banks and receive his money?
125. How long does the person who comes to the bank stay?
126. What do they say to the person whose turn has come?
127. What is the thing called "drive through?"
128. What three things do those people use to sustain their lives?
129. What kind of work does electricity do for them?
130. Does their electricity go off?
131. Does their water go off?
132. Is their telephone service good?
133. What should we learn from these things?
134. What are the names of restaurants that exist along their highways? Name or write three of them.
135. Write at least twelve names of types of food or things to eat and drink that they have.
136. What are some of the things one can buy by putting money in the automatic

coin-operated machines?

137. The thing called "Burger King," how is it?
138. What things do they not pay tax on?
139. Write out ten kinds of food or things to eat used as appetizers in their hotels.
140. What is it that makes them grow tall and fat the most?
141. Write the names of some of the shops they have.
142. How big are the largest of them?
143. What do they do about stealing in their stores?
144. What happens in some stores when people enter them?
145. When do they raise or lower the prices of the merchandise in their shops?
146. What is the situation in regard to abiding by the laws in America?
147. (missing)
148. What types of buildings are in their country?
149. What is the thing called a "basement?"
150. What is the value of that place?
151. Where was it said that they moved around a large building that had been built and carried it over to another place?
152. What do they use to go up in the high buildings in their country?
153. Tell about their post offices.
154. How many days does it take for a letter to reach its destination?
155. How do they handle religion in their country?
156. What are the things that make them happy?
157. What are "funeral homes?"
158. In what way do these resemble our own?
159. Are there bad people in their country?
160. Describe their working lives.
161. After reading "Nkem Goes to America," what advice would you give to travelers and writers living in our country?

6

Ugbo elu ufodu na-eke n'awa

UDI	Pasinja o na-ebu	Maili mmiri ede ha na-eferu n'elu	'Ole A turuha n'ime ha	'Ole no ano ugbu a.
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BOEING

Boeing 707	160	4,800	941	936
727	143	1,900	1,781	1,594
737	100	1,900	789	643
747	452	5,700	528	430
757	178	2,200	42	Ga-ebido 1983
767	211	2,900	148	Ga-ebido 1982

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS

DC 10	270	3,500	362	326
DC 9	115	1,500	1,041	936

LOCKHEED

L-10	290	5,200	234	174
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AEROSPATIALE/BRITISH AEROSPACE

CONCORDE	100	3,350	16	9
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AIRBUS INDUSTRIES

A 300	260	3,100	275	92
A 310	210	3,100	129	Ga-ebido 1983

BRITISH AEROSPACE

BAC-11	100	1,650	230	225
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VEW - FOKKER

F 28	85	1,000	160	150
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