

50422 3 2 1 Barry writes from Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China, "Dear Mr. Cooper, las thing I rememba I be down to de lower part an havin me a little one fo to close my eyes . . . next we meets wit some sailors from de big Oriental ship. So we has a drink. An anothu. An de very very nex ting i see is de skyline of de wide open sea an dey make me work fo my food. Afta da Panama Kanal, den de mate say we gonna see China. Sho nuff we stop at Fu-Chou, Ning-po, and den Shang-hai. Dear Mr. Cooper, pro fesser, what am I gonna do now?"

Good question, Barry. The answer will in part depend upon your grasp of the language and your reaction to local customs and traditions. If you don't speak the dialect or if you don't like the food, you may want to relocate.

Barry continues. "How can dey get away with doin dis to me? Can I report dem?"

Yes, Barry. 18 US Code § 2194 provides, in material part, "Whoever, with intent that any person shall perform ... labor of any kind on board of any vessel engaged in trade ... with foreign nations, procures or induces... another ... while the person so procured or induced is intoxicated ... to go on board of any such vessel ... shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both. § 2194 also provides, "Whoever knowingly detains on board of any such vessel any person so procured or induced ... shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both."

It is my opinion that those who procured you, those who made you work, and those who knowingly detained you on board may face

criminal prosecution. You may contact the U.S. Attorney to report such violations.

Barry continues, "Well, things could be worser. When dis ship stop in port de mate an all de ABs dey go ashore an carry wit dem four or tree lengths o string an some bread in dey pockets. When dey come back dat night to de ship to sail out to sea, each be leadin 1 or 2 or 3 scraggly dogs tied wit de string an dey feedin de dogs bread. Up de gangplank dey come. 6 sailors wit 9 dogs. Dem sailors love a delicacy on dey rice."

Indeed, as Barry points out, things can always be worser.

More next week on The Admiralty Docket. Until then, remember your rights and responsibilities may change as you approach the shore and may God Almighty grant you pleasant sailing. 50422
