

Capitalists seeking communists' business

Chinese — U.S. trade more prevalent

United Press International
CHICAGO — At a time when lavish business trips have become taboo, American states are rushing to mount what may be the ultimate business trip of all: trade missions to the People's Republic of China.

The number of trade missions to China has mushroomed so much recently that one organization that normally keeps track of such things has "thrown up our hands in confusion," a spokeswoman said.

Illinois, for example, has sent 18 businessmen to the Chinese

province of Liaoning for a mission aimed at cementing both diplomatic and business ties between the two governments.

But Illinois isn't the only state to go looking for the fastest boat to China since normalization of relations between that country and the U.S. in 1979. By the most recent count seven states have formed trade relationships with individual Chinese provinces.

In fact, so many American businessmen are interested in giving their sales pitch in China that the New York-based Na-

tional Committee on U.S.-China Relations stopped keeping its running tally of who was pitching and when.

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"We finally threw up our hands in confusion," said committee vice president Jan Carol Berris.

In state trade missions, just how the alliances develop depends primarily on the people involved, Berris said.

"In some places you have a very large Chinese community as well as a population that sees a natural kind of relationship with China," she said, pointing to the alliance of San Francisco, a major Pacific port, with Shanghai.

Other alliances arise out of the personal interest of politicians who have visited China. Still others spring from the efforts of individual Chinese citizens living in the U.S., Berris said. Agreements between Maryland and the province of

Anhui, and New Jersey and Zhejiang are examples, she said.

Perhaps the best-known alliance is that between the province of Sichuan and the state of Washington, which four years ago founded the only state organization devoted to promoting trade with China.

The Washington State China Relations Council, manned by two full-time staffers, provides information and specialized services for Washington companies interested in opening trade with the People's Republic. Dr. Robert Kapp, the Council's director, said.

Services range from main-

taining open lines of communication with the State Department to advising American businessmen on proper etiquette in Peking, he added.

But the council's most important task is improving ties between the state and the Chinese people.

"We're trying to avoid the excesses of euphoria and despair that have traditionally characterized American reaction to trade with China — either the 'We'll have 15 million customers!' bit or the 'Well, here comes the yellow horde' bit," Kapp said.

If recent Chinese response to American business overtures is

an indication, all these seem to be paying off.

Trade volume with China lower this year than in 1982, but there are encouraging signs, said Stephen Mitchell of the U.S. Department of Commerce international trade administration.

A recently concluded agreement, negotiations, bilateral investment treaty, promised cooperation in nuclear energy projects and good commercial relations between the U.S. and China added.

"The Chinese definitely come these missions," he

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United Press International
CHICAGO — By the time a child graduates from high school, researchers say he will have spent twice as many hours watching television as he spent in the classroom.

David Pearl, chief of the National Institute of Mental Health's Behavioral Sciences Research Branch, said parents significantly underestimate the time their children spend in front of the video tube and the

type of programs they watch.

"Television is now a socializing agent almost comparable in importance to the home, school and neighborhood in influencing children's development and behaviors," Pearl said at a con-

ference addressing the impact of lifestyles on child and adolescent health problems.

He said studies show that the average American child — age 9 to 12 — will spend about 1,000 hours in the classroom over a year but will spend 1,340 hours before a television set.

And by the time that average child completes high school, he will have spent 22,000 hours of accumulated viewing time before the television screen and only 11,000 hours of classroom time, he said.

Specialists said other examples of technological abuse among children include the automobile and video computers.

"Technology advances are having a tremendous impact on our lifestyles and is particularly true in youth," pediatrician at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles Dr. James Holroyd said.

"All technological advances have major positive effects on society, but we must be aware also of the negative effects."

Video games are the newest attraction.

Holroyd said children often spend lunch money and steal money from their parents in order to maintain their habit —

and school absenteeism increased.

"Interpersonal skills are developed," Holroyd said. "Good human relations needed and are at greater than ever."

Holroyd suggested game arcades limit their hours and locate farther from schools. He also said children spend more of their time in activities such as gymnastics, petting swimming and

However, Holroyd said video technology can be positive ways such as with work. He added the effect on teenagers has not been determined because new.

Automobiles have a

Holroyd said many parents who "cruise" the streets cars are injured permanently or lose their lives.

The combination of car and alcohol abuse produces major public health problems — teenagers — automobile accidents, he said.

A major health risk teenagers is not using seat belts and the public attitude "buckling up" must change, Holroyd said.

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