

次の英文を読んで、下記の設問に答えよ。

¶ 1 I seldom ride long distance buses, but these past few days had been enough to convince me that there is little romance to them. As a traveler who usually finds himself in airports, I had become tired of this week's endless hours in dark, smelly buses, heading slowly between places that no other form of public transportation serves.

¶ 2 My fellow passengers were not inflation-fighters; they were on the buses because buses are the least expensive form of American transportation. There is nothing cheaper; the low price was the only reason that the people were aboard. They were the bottom social class of country's travelers; they needed to get someplace, and the bus was all they could afford.

¶ 3 Now I was on the last part of my journey; the bus I was on had started the trip in St. Louis, and was on a nine-hour run through Missouri and Illinois. Several hours into the ride, I began to notice something.

¶ 4 It was the driver. He was a young man with neatly-cut hair and moustache; I would have to guess he was in his early thirties. What struck me was how careful, precise and alert he was. He was dressed neatly, and he addressed his passengers politely, and at the rest stop he timed his schedule exactly with his wristwatch.

¶ 5 At every stop, he welcomed each passenger to the bus; hurried out the door to assist with baggage; and made a fresh count of travelers for his record book.

¶ 6 He was just a long distance bus driver heading up some forgotten route in the middle of the country. But from his attitude, you might have thought that we were on a Boeing 747 on its way to Paris. I found myself wondering what struck me so oddly about his man, and in a second the realization came. This attitude of his -- this pride in the work he was doing -- is the very thing we have for so long been told has vanished from the American workers.

¶ 7 Had the driver taken a lazy and careless approach, no one would have ever known; the passengers on long distance buses are not the kind of people who are influential enough to make their complaints heard. They have no alternative; if they don't like the bus, there is no cheaper way for them to go. Certainly there was no status built into the driver's work.

¶ 8 But on this ride, it was as if the idea of not doing his job well had never crossed the driver's mind. And a funny thing was happening: because the

driver found dignity in his own work, he gave his load of passengers a small feeling of dignity, too. Oh, they knew they were riding on an uncomfortable bus with men and women who probably could not afford any other means of transportation; but because the driver had pride, the passengers seemed to feel a little better, too.

¶ 9 When we pulled into the station in Chicago's Loop, the driver stood at the bottom of the steps leading out of the bus, helping each passenger depart, saying good-bye to each of us. He stayed there until the bus was empty.

¶ 10 Because of his attitude -- the way he feels about his work -- the driver had, for a few hours, made things different. When I arrived home, I realized something inexcusable: for all the driver's impressiveness, I had not even bothered to learn his name. So I called the bus company and found out. It is Ted Litt.

本文の内容に最もよく合うものを1つ選び、その番号をマークせよ。

1 The writer of this story .....

- (1) likes to observe bus drivers when he travels
- (2) prefers to travel by airplane whenever he can
- (3) would like to have taken an airplane, but he couldn't afford it
- (4) doesn't like to take any form of public transportation if he can drive himself

2 The writer happened to take a long distance bus this time because .....

- (1) he had become tired of taking other forms of transportation
- (2) he didn't like this week's endless hours in dark, smelly buses
- (3) there was no other way to go to the places that he had to go to
- (4) he wanted to find out how much romance there was left in them

3 According to the writer, people take buses because .....

- (1) they are for the bottom social class
- (2) they don't want to fight inflation anymore
- (3) they are the cheapest way to get where they want to go
- (4) they are seldom the least expensive form of transportation in the United States

4 The driver of the bus .....

- (1) just started this job recently
- (2) is obviously very enthusiastic about his work
- (3) wishes that he could be the pilot of a Boeing 747
- (4) had driven this same bus route for about 30 years

5 Drivers of such buses .....

- (1) often do not care deeply about their work
- (2) are often respected because long distance buses are very popular
- (3) often talk to the passengers so that their complaints can be heard
- (4) cannot be lazy because poor work will soon be reported to their boss

6 One effect of the bus driver's actions was that .....

- (1) the passengers made him become prouder of his work
- (2) the passengers felt small because of the driver's dignity
- (3) the passengers felt better because of the driver's attitude
- (4) the passengers knew that they were riding on an uncomfortable bus

7 The writer decides to write this story because .....

- (1) he found out the bus driver's name
- (2) he was impressed with the driver's attitude towards his work
- (3) he felt that bus drivers in the United States don't receive enough praise
- (4) he felt that most American workers, like the bus driver, now have pride in their work

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## 難易度

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## コメント

この文章はアメリカのコラムニスト、ボブ・グリーン(Bob Greene)によって書かれたもの。検索すれば、他のコラムも読むことができるでしょう。センターの長文と同じくらいのレベル。

## 解答・解説

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