

The second one looks like this:

Room rate	\$120
State tax	\$11.75
Out-of-room direct dial 900 number	\$15
Pay-per-View selection	\$10
One can Cheez-Wiz from minibar	\$7
Two bottles tequila from minibar @ \$10/bottle	\$20
One carton orange juice from minibar	\$6
Three condoms from minibar @ \$5 apiece	\$15
Room service, 8 oz. bottle of crème de coconut	\$45

Which bill do you think will be reimbursed in full? Sure, the T&E guy may ask what all those "incidental expenses" were about, but not for nothing were you promoted to tri-county sales manager of your booming automotive company. You had to have your laundry done so you could look spiffy at that big meeting; you invited big clients up to your room for a drink; the two of you ordered room service because every restaurant in town closes at 8 PM. At worst, half of that \$145 will be disallowed, meaning your company just treated you to the other half, a \$70 room-service-and-minibar Bahama Mama (see page 150).

Sadly, the vast majority of hotels nowadays issue itemized bills of the second kind. Sure, this can put a bit of a damper on the average business trip, but looked at in a positive way, it can help you hone your salesmanship skills to executive-VP level. Remember all those episodes of *MacGyver* in which Richard Dean Anderson improvised homemade explosives from beach sand, lemon juice, and a breath mint? If you can convince your boss that you needed that crème de coconut to jimmy open the jammed lock on your room safe in which you stored crucial company documents, not only should he pay your bill in full, but you should be rewarded with a free, week-long vacation in Hawaii.

TRAVELING FOR YOURSELF

Quick, what's the key difference between traveling on behalf of your company and traveling for your own enjoyment? No, it's not the expense