A recent news item told of the arrest of a group of employees at Los Angeles airport for thefts from baggage. It may not be surprising, but some of the accused are Homeland Security (TSA) security guards. Unfortunately, this kind of crime happens frequently at airports throughout the world.

How does a traveler avoid such problems? It isn't easy, but it can be done in many airport situations. Here are some tips that can at least help avoid the worst of the thefts, if not all of them.

1. We never check our luggage. Checked bags are the ones most stolen or pilfered, especially the small computer cases. I know cutting back on clothing is difficult or thought to be impossible for some travelers, but it is worth considering. We who are both elderly go on cruises and travel throughout Europe with just one wheeled carry-on each and a knapsack. It's a good idea to keep your computer with you at all times.

