the establishment of a national policy with respect to utilization of the metric system. This will require the full cooperation of industry, commerce, labor, science, consumers, and numerous other sectors of our society, and it will require the investment of significant Government resources in terms of manpower and money. We believe that the necessary national support for such an extensive and important study can only be assured through congressional endorsement and authorization. For this reason we strongly urge prompt enactment of the bills for this purpose that are currently before the Congress.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Symington?

Senator SYMINGTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You mention tourism in your statement. The plan is still to have incentives for people to come over here as against any restrictions against the citizens of this country going abroad and spending over there, is that correct?

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. That is correct, Senator.

Senator SYMINGTON. Is there any contemplating of stipulating that our citizens use ships and airliners under the American flag?

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. Not as any particular rule or legal requirement. I think you are aware that as one of the techniques that we suggest to American companies, as they approach how they contribute to the balance-of-payments situation, is the use of American aircraft and flagships in the movement of their people and goods. This is a method rather than a requirement.

Senator SYMINGTON. Does the Department of Commerce believe that the 18-year continuing loss of gold—with the exception of 1957—is a serious matter?

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. Yes, it does, Senator.

Senator SYMINGTON. Tourism today is probably the greatest single antibalance-of-payments item, is it not?

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. At $1.8 or $1.9 billion, I think you are probably right, as a single element of the total picture.

Senator SYMINGTON. I am not sure, but believe so.

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. Yes, sir.

Senator SYMINGTON. You have said in your statement "We are ever mindful of the fact that voluntary programs are by no means a permanent solution." What would you see as a permanent, or semipermanent, solution to curbing the flow of investment dollars abroad to a reasonable level so as to improve our balance-of-payments position?

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. Well, of course our very real hope is that we won't need a permanent method of curbing investment outflow. We are hopeful that the stimulation of exports, the accumulation of earnings abroad and the use of those for reinvestment purposes, the borrowings abroad, these various features of our current program, will be continued by business.

We are particularly mindful that American investments abroad are a good thing, and our concern is how do we finance them.

Senator SYMINGTON. If the administration would come right out and say that actually it didn't make much difference whether we had adequate gold or not, that would be one thing; and it could be discussed with that premise. But each year, in all the years I have been interested in this subject, administration witnesses come down and say it is very serious matter, and they are going to correct it "next year." But they never do.

That is what worries me most. We have now about 10 percent of free nonmonetized gold available if we were called by these foreign