

ARTA joins with the other segments of the travel industry which are opposed to Mr. Fowler's proposals because they single out "travel" as the whipping boy in the gold outflow picture.

This country for many years has encouraged the kind of international community where the free flow of goods, persons, and ideas could flourish in an unrestricted manner. We have endorsed the people-to-people program; the Fulbright scholarship program; the experiment for international living, and other similar endeavors.

America has led the world in advocating an unlimited exchange of trade and travel among nations. We have always severely criticized, and rightly so, the restrictions other governments have imposed upon their citizens, thus drawing an iron curtain around their borders. The Fowler proposal if adopted would effectively draw a travel curtain around this country.

We should not abdicate our world leadership for the sake of expediency.

There has been much discussion concerning the travel gap. We are willing to assume that such a gap exists. However, this gap has existed for many years and hopefully the reason for the gap will continue to exist for many years as a constant barometer of American affluence and good fortune. It is after all not surprising that our citizens travel more frequently in greater numbers than less-fortunate Europeans and Asians.

A travel gap has not caused any serious deficiencies during the many years it has existed. One of the reasons why American trade has done so well in the world is because Americans have been allowed to travel freely. This travel has fostered better understanding between Americans and citizens of other countries. It has exposed American products and know-how abroad. This exposure has created a demand for these products which in turn has resulted in substantial sales of American goods.

Any travel restrictions, however disguised they may be, will compel other countries to retaliate by imposing insurmountable tariffs on American goods. In turn, the United States will be forced to react similarly by imposing its own tariffs. Thus, a tariff war of major proportions will be precipitated. The result will be a complete breakdown of international commerce.

Domestically, Mr. Fowler's proposals will have a disastrous effect not only on the travel industry directly but on supporting industries as well, such as advertising firms, baggage manufacturers, caterers, printers, and their supporting and related industries. Many thousands will doubtlessly join the ranks of the unemployed. The far-reaching consequences will be incalculable for there is hardly an industry in this country which is not dependent in some way upon travel.

The proposed travel tax in all its forms is obviously designed to discourage travel outside the Western Hemisphere. With a single exception that I will discuss later we are opposed to every tax on travel since it will necessarily act as a deterrent to the freedom of the American people to travel.

The proposals discriminate against the average citizen who will be unable to afford the oppressive travel expenditure tax. As a result, American students seeking to broaden their education will be denied that opportunity. Americans desiring to make religious pilgrimages