

Mr. BYRNES. That is what I was wondering, if this was not really just a device that was added on so that somebody could get a special air rate rather than being any part of the tour and whether that does not come within the realm of the tariffs which must be filed by the airlines.

Mr. MEYER. This is a tariff agreed upon by the International Air Transport Association and filed here with the CAB just as in other countries with their regulatory bodies. This fare is just as available and exactly the same fare from London to New York as it is from New York to London.

Mr. BYRNES. You get a cheaper fare. You get your fare for \$230, that is what you are saying, by adding on a package of a lot of things that you probably are not ever going to use. As long as there is something there that you must use, such as your 2 miles a day with your rent-a-car, you save at least a few dollars. So that that is some plus and a person is therefore better off buying your package than paying \$300 for an airline ticket.

Mr. MEYER. I think it is important to point out, Mr. Byrnes, that the intent of the airlines in bringing in this fare was for the low-priced package tour and not this rock-bottom stuff. Most of the tour operators use this fare in tours which average \$500 to \$600 and give a bona fide trip for that money.

In addition, at the time this was introduced, the CAB urged this fare level as a means of trying to be able to offer in Europe a lower air fare to bring people to this country.

Mr. BYRNES. That is very interesting. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any further questions?

Again we thank you, Mr. Meyer, for coming to the committee.

Mr. Low, if you will introduce yourself for the record by giving us your name, address, and capacity in which you appear, we will be glad to recognize you.

#### STATEMENT OF HAROLD S. LOW, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.

Mr. Low. Mr. Chairman, my name is Harold Low. I am president of American International Travel Service—AITS, Inc., of Chestnut Hill, Mass. I am appearing here as representative of an independent organization, the president of a public company, one of only three travel organizations in this country that are publicly owned.

I am pleased that I am able to appear before this committee in regard to your consideration of the President's balance-of-payments proposals—proposals to which I am in basic opposition.

If the committee would permit, I would like to read into your record a prepared statement after which I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have concerning the statement, or the effects the proposed bill will have on the traveling public, the travel industry or any other area you would consider my opinions to be expertise in.

My reason for being here is to be of any assistance to the committee that I can possibly be. I realize that you are in the difficult position of evaluating the need, effect, and value of a bill which is strongly opposed by the segments of the public that travel and the industry that serves them.