Force should get priority attention at this session of Congress, in light of tourism's position as a leading export industry.

WHY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE

With a strong and rapidly expanding world travel industry contributing about $18.5 billion to world trade in 1968, and producing an estimated $2.1 billion in earnings for the United States, it would seem dangerous to tamper with our travel relations with other countries.

As the world's leading exporter of travel services, it would seem unwise to set in motion restrictive measures which might be copied by other countries, to our detriment.

In Europe, our three largest customers, Britain, Germany, and France, all show travel deficits in their balance-of-payments accounts.

Last year, more than 7 million Canadians visited the United States. We also received more than 400,000 Mexican visitors. Most surprising, however, was a 17.6-percent increase in visitors from the United Kingdom.

These 231,000 British visitors arrived in the United States in record numbers, despite the fact that their Government had imposed rigid currency restrictions on travelers.

We might do well to study this phenomenon before we consider restricting our own citizens.

It is also interesting to note that of all the countries in Europe, France showed one of the largest percentage increases in sending travelers to the United States. The 116,000 French visitors represented an 85.2-percent increase in 1967 over the number of French arrivals in 1966.

During the past two decades, the United States has played a leading role in the progressive liberalization of international trade. The recent conclusion of the Kennedy round of trade agreements represents the most extensive liberalization of trade ever achieved, and was the result of long and difficult negotiations.

Prior to World War II, most of the leading industrialized nations followed a beggar-thy-neighbor policy in international trade relations. During the past 20 years, the United States has provided world leadership in a bipartisan national policy calling for continuing reductions in trade barriers as a means for increasing opportunities for world trade.

As a result, free world exports rose from less than $50 billion in 1946 to more than $180 billion in 1966. This remarkable expansion in trade has been accompanied by the most rapid increases in domestic growth rates ever experienced in the industrialized nations of the world.

To turn the clock backward and set an example of Government-imposed restrictions for an export category in which we are the world's leading exporter seems to fly in the face of 20 years' successful foreign trade experience.

EDUCATIONAL AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF TRAVEL

In addition to economic considerations, there are other powerful reasons for encouraging Americans to travel to the developed and