

But the point you mentioned before is the real point. The travel, when it comes to this country, moves through a travel agent. It is the travel agents who are able to influence where the person goes.

If we suddenly wreck the travel business of Europe, the little people who make up the business, the travel agents, the tour operators, they are not going to feel very friendly toward us, and certainly we are going to suffer.

Mr. CONABLE. Even though it is possible for them to put together a much more attractive package, once our air fares have been reduced, for instance?

Mr. WATERS. I don't believe you win any friends by wrecking their business.

Mr. CONABLE. I quite agree. I simply wanted to explore the extent of this retaliation, which has been mentioned several times.

From what you have said, I agree it is difficult to quantify, but that there probably would be at most some psychological effect.

Mr. BATTIN. From what you say about the Japanese warning that they will immediately put on similar restrictions, it would appear from other testimony we have had, particularly from Government witnesses involved in consultation to solve these problems, that maybe our friends are able to help us, as long as it does not hurt them.

Is that a fair statement?

Mr. WATERS. As Mr. Wilcox mentioned, we are the biggest travel earner in the world. We are the big business, when it comes to earning through travel.

But any time we go out of our way to invent new devices to curtail travel, we are looking for trouble. We are giving other people ideas.

It does not look like good business, in the long run.

Mr. WATTS. Mrs. Griffiths.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Wilcox. I think you have made an excellent statement.

Mr. WILCOX. Thank you.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. Personally, I am for you. I feel it is ridiculous to feel that we are going to solve any problems by adding a travel tax.

I feel it would be much better if we went all-out to get some tourist business into America, and I think it would be even better if we tried to get Americans to tour America.

I think it is a vast mistake to assume that there is nothing in America worth seeing. It seems to me that most Europeans and most Asiatics would give almost anything to see America. We could put together a few packages that would make it possible for those people to come here, and get back some of that money we spend over there.

As someone in my office said yesterday, Vienna has been living 500 years just on tourism, and we have ignored the fact that it is a salable product.

I would assume that the Crusades were really tours.

Mr. WATTS. Any other questions?

Mr. BURKE. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Burke.

Mr. BURKE. Is it true there is a rather unofficial agreement among nations that they allow up to \$50 duty-free goods to come into their country? This is the unofficial agreement that is now in existence?

Mr. WILCOX. I do not know the answer to that, Congressman Burke.