We must remember that we are a nation of immigrants, and for many loyal American citizens, strong cultural bonds nevertheless persist between them and their relations beyond the oceans. This is part of what makes America great.

Each year an ever-increasing number of these people are able to return to their motherlands to visit. These are happy occasions. The naturalized citizens are proud to show their families the fruits of their success in the land of opportunity. Expensive gifts are called for. It may be necessary to hire a private dining room at the town's best restaurant to entertain a party of some 30 or so uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, and nephews, and perhaps even one's proud parents or grandparents. When possible, gifts of cash may be made, to help one's family, or perhaps to bring a younger brother to this country. No doubt many dollars leave our shores in this way. But the benefits they produce are visible an dobvious. The donor of this "foreign aid" knows exactly where his money is going, and how it will be used. And America gets the credit for having made it possible.

If a tax on tourist expenditures were enacted, I believe that such activity would be seriously curtailed. A division of loyalties would be created if the concept were generated that it was unpatriotic to spend money overseas, or take it to one's relatives. Often such gestures are quite out of proportion to one's income, and the travel would be reticent to make such a disclosure upon his departure from this country. As it is, these people are unable to claim their overseas relatives as dependents on their income tax. Are we going to penalize them further by taking away a portion of the financial assistance?

Figures on remittances abroad are hard to come by. So much of it is in the form of gifts other than cash. Some countries where such remittances are particularly important are Greece, Italy, and Lebanon. In the Lebanon, more than a dozen charter flights went back to the motherland from the United States during 1966. This summer, a "national homecoming" is planned, at which it is desired to achieve as large a representation as possible from Lebanese overseas. While Italy recorded more than $700,000 in remittances from overseas (all countries) in 1966, the actual figures may be more than double that amount, due to direct expenditures made by visiting Americans on behalf of their families residing there. It should also be recognized that most of the Italians in the United States come from southern Italy, so capital infused into that part of the country, where poverty is greatest, aids that country more than national figures would otherwise indicate. The same story could be repeated for Greece, and doubtless also in other countries with which I am less familiar.

Other related arguments can be made against a tax on tourist expenditures such as the importance of tourists to the economy of countries (Greece received about $30 million from tourists last year, and usually receives more), and the traditional freedom of Americans to travel. While no outright ban on overseas travel has been proposed, having a form of currency control at the point of exit presents an unhealthy psychological aspect.

I have done extensive travel in this country, having visited 48 of the 50 States. Geographers like to travel, and I have been overseas several times, as well. On a recent trip to Switzerland, curiosity prompted me