

to be the right to search our citizens, for the only way to insure fairness and equality under this proposed law would be to subject some American travelers to search at the point of departure and on his return. For how else could this law insure that a man was telling the truth. This legislation would further open up the door for foreign merchants, hotel owners and businessmen to join in a conspiracy with American citizens in assisting them to lie about the amount of money spent. (Some merchants do it now.) I can assure you that hotel clerks throughout the world would be happy to write a \$3 or \$4 receipt in cases where \$15 or \$20 might have been spent for a room—and how does the United States government intend to protect the law-abiding against this?

Next, let us consider the problems of physical facilities at points of arrival and departure, such as airports, which are already overcrowded. Now add the extra burden of declarations and forms, and examinations and questions, and see what the average American traveler will say about these new government inconveniences. The American should have a sense of pride about the workings of his government and an appreciation for the freedoms afforded by our Constitution and Bill of Rights. We believe that the more we restrict Americans unnecessarily, the less respect he will have for his government . . . and this proposed tax is an unnecessary restriction.

We believe it impossible to travel anywhere for \$7 per day. Isn't the proposed tax discriminatory for businessmen who must travel in an attempt to sell American goods overseas? They are the ones who will improve our dollar position? Isn't this proposal discriminatory to people of modest income who save a lifetime for a dream trip to Europe, perhaps to see a relative or to visit their place of birth before they die? Isn't this tax discriminatory for students and teachers, our future statesmen, who must have first hand knowledge of the world to prepare themselves for a career? Of course, the answer is yes. This proposed legislation discriminates against the very person who should be encouraged to travel, and, therefore, it makes no sense at all.

Let us say the Administration is successful and that you gentlemen agree with the President that this travel tax is necessary and that the Two Million Americans now traveling in Europe and Asia decide to spend their vacation in other parts of the world. Where are they going to go? There are no hotels to take care of the influx of Americans eager to see the Western Hemisphere. Gentlemen, we are in the travel business. We know the tremendous shortage of tourist and vacation facilities. If we congeal the entire pool of Two Million Americans and tell these Two Million travelers that they must go to Mexico City, Lima, Peru or even Honolulu, what you are telling them to do is to stay home, for nowhere are there facilities large enough to handle them.

Let us consider some positive action to assist the President in improving our balance of payment. First of all, what are we doing to encourage foreign tourists to spend their money in the U.S.? Most foreign countries spend more money in promotion in the U.S. than we spend outside of the United States and they are beating us at our own game. Americans are the greatest salesmen in the world, yet for some unknown reason we do not seem to want to sell the U.S. outside of our country. Why can't the travel industry, supported by the government, formulate a sales program aimed at selling the United States overseas? Why should the Swedish, the Germans or British subjects choose the French Riviera as a place to go. Of course, Miami, Las Vegas and Hollywood are a bit further, but the enticements are every bit as glamorous and with the help of government and travel industry, tours could be packaged to make it economically feasible. We at Diners Club and Diners/Fugazy are doing it now. For the first time, in many countries, we are arranging for foreign nationals to travel in the United States on fly now, pay later tours and we are using our offices overseas as individual promotional bureaus selling the United States and the advantages of traveling here. But, already we are running into retaliation based on the news of this proposal. Our Italian office has reported that they are meeting sales resistance in selling the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Independence (for whom we are general agents) to Italian citizens.

If this Bill passes, we will be incurring the wrath and retaliation of other foreigners who would come to the U.S. to spend their yens, marks, pounds, francs. Our company is in the process now of opening 40 new offices in order to assist in this program and we are certain that others in the travel industry will join us in this program of selling the United States to the world.

Gentlemen, it certainly makes more sense to be a positive selling force than to sit here and think of ways to impede, tax and harass Americans and American