

Except in the case of a small minority of self-employed freelance writers, the tax as we understand it would be borne by our employers and in most cases it would be subject to the 50-percent corporate tax deduction. If we understand the proposal correctly, it would not apply to correspondents residing abroad over 120 days.

It must be remembered, however, that most newspapers and magazines are being forced to watch expenditures increasingly during the present era of rising labor and other costs connected with production.

The enormous growth and development of jet air travel has caused what you might call the overnight spot assignment of newspaper and magazine writers and of representatives of television and other media to come to the fore as never before in journalistic history. It constantly is being used to implement swift roundtrip coverage of sudden news breaks in "hot" corners of the world now only a few hours by air from such centers as New York, Washington, and Los Angeles.

This Nation, I think you will agree, has a remarkable and unique asset in the largest and most talented corps of foreign correspondents in the world. Speaking only from a national point of view, it would be a tragic development indeed for freedom of the press and America's right to know, if anything was allowed to take place which would restrict, really restricted the scope of its operations even for a short period.

To members of the Overseas Press Club, one of the most surprising aspects of the current travel imbalance, particularly between Western Europe and the United States, has been the low-key level of the U.S. Government effort to sell travel to the historic centers of American liberty.

A comparison of the National Travel Budgets as disclosed by the International Union of Official Travel Organizations, reveals that the United States, with the modest \$3 million budget of the U.S. Travel Service, does not even rank among the top 15 nations of the world in this activity of stimulating travel to its shores.

Our expenditure for the purpose is less than one-fourth of the amount spent by the tiny Irish Republic and less than one-third that of both Greece and Turkey. It is less than one-half that of Portugal, New Zealand, or Mexico and far behind that of France, Argentina, India, and Belgium, not to mention such Iron Curtain nations as Poland and Hungary. We thank God for the unofficial assistance of U.S. airlines and other private groups, and I would like to say parenthetically that we did try to get a rough estimate and we understand that the best estimate on total expenditures by all the airlines and related agencies is around \$17 million, which is not a great deal more than what Poland spends.

As foreign correspondents who have covered every nation of the globe and as of this moment have fellow Overseas Press Club members working in every capital city of the world, we more than any other group of newsmen in existence know of the tremendous interest in all things American, past and present, among peoples of all nations. There are American Civil War buffs in England, societies and groups devoted to study of the Old West and Indian lore in France and Germany, and a curiosity to see the skyscrapers of New York and Chicago, the French Quarter of New Orleans, and such natural wonders as the Grand Canyon, almost everywhere an American foreign correspondent is now stationed.