

ADMINISTRATION'S BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROPOSALS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in the committee room, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. A. Sidney Herlong, Jr., presiding.

Mr. HERLONG. The committee will be in order.

We are happy to welcome to the committee this morning our distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mr. Paul Findley.

Mr. Findley, would you please take the witness stand? While we know you well and favorably, I hope that you will identify yourself for the record and proceed in your own way.

STATEMENT OF HON. PAUL FINDLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. FINDLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Paul Findley. I represent the 20th district in Illinois.

My purpose in appearing before you today is to urge that travel financed under the existing tourist-dollar exchange program be exempted from any tax or restriction on U.S. travel this committee may recommend; and, further, that travel be exempted in other countries which participate in the "debt-credit" arrangement which I will outline in this statement.

As the result of an amendment to Public Law 480 which I initiated in 1962, and two subsequent amendments of similar nature, U.S. visitors—business as well as tourist—to Israel, India, Pakistan, Tunisia, Egypt, Ceylon, or Guinea may purchase from the local American embassy a supply of U.S.-owned local currencies equal to their needs while in that country.

The local currencies available for purchase were acquired by the United States in connection with Public Law 480 transactions. The exchange is entirely voluntary, and occurs only when U.S. visitors take the trouble to visit the embassy and utilize this means of easing our balance-of-payments situation.

Under this voluntary program, visitors to these countries purchased a total of \$7,235,300 in local currencies between the inauguration of the program in 1963 and November 30, 1967.

Purchases and the amount of currencies still remaining available for purchase on November 30, 1967, as reported by the U.S. Treasury Department: