

freedom of travel with a minimum of restraint on the choice of destination. Improving our nation's balance of payments position requires vigorous efforts to increase our earnings from the sale abroad of goods and services, including travel to the United States by foreign visitors. Travel to the United States cannot be increased while United States travel abroad is being restricted, any more than exports can be expanded while imports are being restricted. An expanded and sustained growth of foreign visitor travel to the United States can be achieved as long as the philosophy of travel freedom is honored.

In summary, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, I would like to urge that the proposed tourist taxes be rejected by this committee and that other avenues available to our Nation be utilized in reducing the balance-of-payments deficit.

I would like to thank the gentlemen.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you, Mr. Keenan, for your statement. Are there questions? Mr. Curtis will inquire.

Mr. CURTIS. First, let me commend you on your statement. You have been very helpful. Maybe through your organization I can get some additional data.

Do you have the figures of how many of the 9 million people who came to the United States last year, came by ship? Do you have those figures?

Mr. KEENAN. I don't have those figures, sir. The proportion is predominantly by air, very substantially.

Mr. CURTIS. I wanted to get the figure first. Can you get it?

Mr. KEENAN. Yes, I have them in my office.

Mr. CURTIS. Then I would want to know how many come—I am talking about those who come to the United States—by ship and then those that came on American-flag ships vis-a-vis foreign ships. I would also like the reverse of this, how many Americans go abroad and how. I have the total, but I don't have the total of how many go by ship, and how many of those go on American-flag ships and how many go on foreign ships.

You have brought in a very important point in respect to cruises. How much of this travel we have been talking about is in the cruise area?

First, do you have the figure of the total travel, then the travel by ship, and then what percentage of that travel is cruise travel? Could you get that?

Mr. KEENAN. I have that, sir. I would like to make a comment in this respect if I might.

Mr. CURTIS. Certainly.

Mr. KEENAN. The nature of steamship travel has changed from being predominantly one of transportation to one of predominantly visiting the world by cruise ship. In other words, it is a way of seeing the world. More and more of the people who go by ship are going for this purpose. It is a convenient way of seeing the world.

Mr. CURTIS. I thought that was probably the case. Incidentally, any data you have on cruise travel I would appreciate. Take the period from 1960 to the present or any timespan which would serve the purpose of giving us the increase in Americans who use ships, the ratio of cruises to the total, and then give us what the total cruise picture is.

Mr. KEENAN. It is a startling trend.

(The following information was received by the committee:)