

change programs is evidence of the agreement of the educational community on this point. The wide range of educational and religious organizations certifies to the agreement among persons of widely varying points of view that educational exchange provides a foreign experience of significant value to individuals.

Congress, itself, has recognized the importance of educational exchange by enacting into law during the last 20 years enabling legislation for a number of significant educational exchange programs. These programs are administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, by the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and by the Agency for International Development. A large number of other governmental agencies have used educational exchange as an effective way to develop individual skills needed for service to the community and the Nation.

The preservation of educational exchange programs is therefore clearly in the national interest, and it is certainly desirable that we resolve the problem of our international payments in ways that cause the minimum disruption to overseas exchange programs.

C. Educational exchange and international travel taxes

Recognizing the importance of educational exchange, we therefore come before the committee to comment on the degree to which the proposals before it exempt educational exchange from the restrictive effect of the proposed taxes, and to make some suggestions as to ways in which important educational programs can be further protected from hardship that might be created by enactment of the proposed legislation.

Before proceeding into more detailed discussion, I would like to point out several factors which are relevant to the proposal that foreign travel be delayed for several years to relieve our balance-of-payments problem.

1. First I would note that students are not as flexible in their travel plans as adult Americans. They can defer their foreign travel plans less easily than those who are going abroad as tourists. Many students find their travel opportunities extremely limited following completion of their education. This may be because of liability for military service, because of the fact that beginning employees in many professions are limited to short vacation periods or because financial and child-care responsibilities curtail travel opportunities for those who marry and start families.

2. We think it is not wise public policy to ask teachers to defer plans for a summer of travel or study abroad. Such a foreign experience is frequently needed to enable the teacher to improve his or her competence as a teacher of European languages or world history. Many teachers traveling abroad during the summer are earning academic credit toward an A.M. degree. Others may be fulfilling requirements for the renewal or improvement of their certification as teachers. (Several States now require language teachers to live for a period in a country where the language they teach is spoken.)

Similarly professors may need to travel abroad during a summer to study or to secure documentation essential to the completion of research projects. These tasks are important. These professions are not highly paid, and I am sure there is every desire to exempt such travel from any restrictive effect the proposed legislation might have.