

these schools comprise the largest independent secondary school in the continental United States, enrolling approximately 1,200 students each year.

As director of the Mount Hermon Summer Schools mine is the responsibility for creating and administering what is, in effect, a national summer high school for highly motivated public school students from all parts of the country. Through special advanced courses offered not for academic credit but for enrichment only, we seek to supplement public education by providing courses of a flexibility, a depth and an intensity that are unapproachable within the structure of the regular academic year. Our students are selected without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin. And generous financial aid awards, made possible by income from private sources, enable us to select students on the basis of their merit rather than on the basis of their ability to pay. A distinguished faculty are drawn from colleges and secondary schools from all parts of the country.

Our curriculum for this summer consists of 27 courses enrolling some 375 students. Generally, no more than 15 students are enrolled in any one course. Two courses in American studies involve travel within the United States, either to North Carolina to study the Negro in American history or to Colorado to study the American Indian. Seven courses involve foreign travel. They consist of an orientation on the Mount Hermon campus followed by home-stay, study and travel within one of the seven different countries. The study-travel courses in France, Germany, and Spain are for the purpose of advanced language study. Tests indicate that this program is at least the equivalent of 1 year of secondary school language study. Four area studies courses stress the history and culture of England, Italy, Greece, and Japan. In the latter three courses, a considerable amount of time is given to language study. All courses feature a home-stay with a carefully selected host family, a continuing academic program conducted by members of the Mount Hermon faculty and a trip, usually in the company of members of the host family, to places of historic or cultural importance.

Students who are enrolled in Mount Hermon's study-travel courses are charged a fee by the school that covers the cost of room, board, and transportation within the United States and abroad; entrance fees for concerts, museums, and places of cultural and historic interest; accident insurance and medical care; laundry service; and instruction and administrative charges. While abroad the student does not incur additional costs for any of the above-enumerated items, he may not travel independently of the course; and he must use the trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific air transportation provided by the school. For this transportation only American-flag carriers are used. Financial aid awards to participants in these seven study-travel courses alone will amount to some \$15,000 in 1968.

Mount Hermon's involvement in overseas study and travel and our association with and concern for other institutions offering similar programs have brought me here today to offer for your consideration these thoughts on the balance-of-payments proposal now before this committee. My comments will be directed to the travel tax program, especially as those taxes affect Mount Hermon School and other nonprofit educational institutions.