

abroad, a step which will have serious implications for the economies of many of our partners abroad, but it will cause many of these countries to curtail their purchases of American goods and services.

We have already been told about how airline companies abroad that have been buying airplanes in the United States would curtail their purchases. That will reduce the number of jobs enjoyed by the people of the United States if that airplane production is cut back in some of the critical areas of our country.

How can we at one and the same time tell our own people not to travel abroad and burden them with high taxes when they do, and at the same time expect foreign countries to let their nationals travel freely to this country?

If you want to place a ban on travel to France I will vote for it and I think nearly all the rest of the Congress would, but because we don't like the way we have been treated by that country, by the people who have been such good friends of ours—I know I was in a little group which intended to stop in Paris and we decided we wouldn't spend a nickel in that country and we switched to Madrid, the weekend break in our trip, and I hope other Americans will do the same thing.

However, I say we cannot single out in tax legislation those countries abroad which seek to exploit our balance of payments difficulties and prohibit travel to those countries without, of course, bringing on retaliation.

But our American citizens, if left free to choose, as my little group did, can make their own judgments about who our friends are and can make their travel plans accordingly. Many of them are doing this already, and this can be done to help our balance of payments without involving official coercion and provoking official retaliation.

We cannot expect to enact a travel tax in a vacuum; we cannot expect it to work simply to our advantage and not have far-reaching consequences for our travel and trade policies. A travel tax would be aimed at only a symptom of our balance-of-payments problem and it could not bring a long-term solution.

I am not certain that a travel tax would even be beneficial as far as the payments balance is concerned in the short run; I know it will not serve our long-run, long-term international interests.

Our balance-of-payments problem is serious, of course, but it has been serious for a long time, and it has been serious so long because we have tried to rely upon expedients, rather than developing long-term solutions. I think we now should do what we could have been doing for several years to close the travel gap in a positive and constructive way. I think we should take this positive step forward, before we take two steps backward and live to regret our shortsightedness.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to express my views. I am hopeful that the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will hold hearing soon on my bill. The chairman of that committee has advised me that he hopes to have such hearings in the near future. I urge your committee to give us a chance to pursue this positive approach before this additional tax burden is imposed upon the American traveler and upon the system of increasingly freer international travel which we have labored so hard and for so many years to build.