

bring in \$350 to \$400 million dollars. The expenditures tax aspect of it, although Treasury has said they cannot break down the ticket tax-expenditures tax category, would seemingly account for about \$200 million. We cannot believe that it is worth \$200 million in Federal revenue to make it financially impossible for many persons 65 and over to be able to take this long anticipated trip. And the present plan would do so.

The tax would not prevent businessmen or wealthy persons from traveling abroad. I think it is obvious upon whom the hardship of this tax would fall. It would be the older people of this country with low- or moderate-retirement incomes. These elderly citizens are a segment of our society who should not be compelled to bear such an additional tax.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Mr. Chairman, we have tried to determine whether medical expenses incurred abroad are included in the expenditures tax. Unfortunately, we find no exemption therefrom. We therefore urge that if there is to be an expenditures tax, it would at least exempt medical and hospital expenses. It would be a gross imposition on any person who has become ill abroad to be forced to pay a tax on his medical expenses—and he might also be subject to a fine under the proposal for underestimating his expenses. We are confident that such a thing was not intended in this legislation and we trust that the proper exemption will be made.

DOMESTIC TOURS

As we have said, we are a patriotic organization and we do encourage our people to discover America. Our local chapters of which we have about 500, are doing so every day and we offer them every bit of assistance in their American travel plans. We encourage them to travel domestically. In the last 3 years, our organized domestic tours as compared to our organized overseas tours have increased from 5 percent to about 40 percent. Many of our people have already seen much of this great land of ours and have encouraged others to do so. They now want to see how people live in other lands and it should be their right as American citizens without paying excessive additional taxes.

GOOD WILL AMBASSADORS

We believe it is beneficial to our country for older people to travel abroad and to develop person-to-person contact with people in foreign lands. Our people are not the "Ugly Americans." Our people are among the best good will ambassadors that this Nation can send abroad. They are not rich or aggressive. They are interested in the life and customs of their counterparts in other lands. We have received many letters from people in other countries telling us how pleased they were to meet our members traveling abroad.

APPENDIX

We have attached excerpts from some of the many letters we have received concerning this proposed tax. The letters came from all parts