

feel however, that the best way to obtain this objective, is by and through the private citizens who pay their own way and having contact with private citizens of other countries, and without the pressure or influence of our government in any way.

We therefore urge defeat of Secretary Treasury Fowler's proposal.

The amount saved by such tactics would be infinitesimal compared to what would be saved if the President had the intestinal fortitude to call home $\frac{3}{4}$ of the soldiers stationed in West Germany, or to call home the 25% over staffing in Embassies and Legations abroad.

On this same mail I am sending letters to Rep. Burke of Mass. and to Rep. Curtis of Missouri commending them for their stand. I am planning no trips abroad myself but I am trying to fight for my members who may be frightened away from the one big adventure of their lives, if this bill goes through.

As a group they voted unanimously to oppose any legislation which tends to slow down our international people-to-people contracts. Most of our travelers abroad are our best good-will ambassadors and this is no time to dry up this source of good-will. Furthermore curtailing our world tourism may create more resentment among foreign countries than the monetary benefits will off-set.

Has it not been our government hand-outs to try to buy friends abroad that has and is draining off our billions in gold? Bought friends are fair-weather friends and seldom are worth the price.

Millions of retired persons are living on limited incomes with the result the travel taxes will be a tremendous burden on them, particularly if they have to visit sick relatives.

On the proposed Travel Tax I go along with Representative James A. Burke of Mass. I feel that it would be taking away from our people the opportunity to build up better relations in the Foreign countries as well as depriving those who have saved for years for the one pleasure they have looked forward to.

There are many ways we can cut the expenses of the Government and save.

The reduction in the purchasing power of the dollar is about all the restriction most people who have retired can stand.

My main criticism is that the proposed travel tax will hit the little fellow. He is the one who saved a number of years to make the trip as a great experience, or to visit his old country and family. He would undoubtedly feel such a tax severely and it could mean the postponement of the trip.

The well-to-do traveller could afford the tax and still *spend much more*, which is the opposite of the result the tax is intended to produce.

In the first place—who but a retired person has the time to spend away from things that a trip abroad takes, especially with a group whose travel is geared to the elderly.

In the second place—and most important—the people who do most of the foreign travel are retired school teachers, office workers, etc. who have dreamed and saved for one trip before they get too old to travel comfortably. This group of people certainly did not make the high salaries now prevailing; we had to scrimp and save in order to take one trip during our lives.

This year, if this tax does not apply to foreign travel, I am planning on taking the ONE trip; therefore, it will be touch and go as to whether I will be able to do this or not. Incidentally, I am a great-grandmother. Our Chapter, as you know, travels quite a lot here in the United States but this one trip I have dreamed about all my life. I do hope there will be enough opposition to it to at least keep it in Committee for this year.