

Why don't the Administration quit sending money abroad to be poured down rat holes and not appreciated by the recipients? It seems to me this would be a much better paying idea—also—Why do THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ALWAYS HAVE TO FORFEIT THEIR FREEDOM IN ORDER TO WIN FREEDOM FOR SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T CARE LESS?

The travel tax is tarred with the same brush as book burning, as are all attempts to hem in men's minds, whether it be for political or economic reasons. The connotations of travel abroad are implicit in the word itself. It is a broadening of one's horizons that, to some extent, counteracts the notorious provincialism and unilingual image of the U.S. citizen.

To discourage travel is to belittle education, the one vital element of our society on which its future depends to a greater extent than on any other of our activities. To talk of peace among nations and, at the same time, deny free intercourse among their peoples is either hypocritical or stupid.

If the travel tax is one of the results of the VietNam war then that war is indeed a tragedy of the deepest significance for us and our avowed purpose of leading the World to a better life.

The proposed travel tax is preposterous and ridiculous. It will do more harm than good. Those with money will not care and those with moderate means, who form the bulk of the travelers, would be penalized. How can the Government be so stupid!

There is confusion enough already about too many things. The Government which should lead the citizens and not push them, has created the confusion as well as many of the problems that exist.

I believe Senator Percy has the only sane viewpoint as well as Representatives Curtis of Missouri and Burke of Massachusetts.

Only the opinion of one, but one time one makes many and some day what seems to be the minority will become the majority and will be heard.

Here now is our problem and I am writing to you for advice. We came over from Germany in 1924 and always lived in New York.

I am now 65 years of age and since last year retired. In December we made up our minds to visit the homeland once more and made a down-payment on a groupflight to Europe.

Since we only want to visit and see our relatives again and live on a strict budget we certainly could not afford such a tax as suggested by President Johnson.

Should we ask for a return of our down-payment? Do you think if this law would be passed it would mean another curtain like the Iron and Bamboo curtain on the Berlin Wall?

Having worked most of my life, and having paid all the high taxes levied against my earnings to support the world; in the relatively few years I have left I want to spend what is left where I want to spend it and how—and not to be penalized by more Taxes.

My objection to the proposed Travel Tax is:

1. Persons have saved all along the way hoping at the time of retirement to see places they have longed to travel to the far away areas. Now they find what they have budgeted to pay will not reach due to the high imposed tax.

- I traveled to Europe in 1967—if I were to do it under the tax proposal it would be impossible because I couldn't afford it.

2. The tax setup is so complicated that the individual couldn't begin to complete it.

3. As setup it affords a fine opportunity for lies, false entries, and fine for the person skilled in financial skulduggery.

4. It limits only the people of limited means—the wealthy won't be inconvenienced at all.

What retiree could afford to remain out of the country one hundred and twenty days—to me the whole proposal is a distinct class bill.