

In re the travel tax proposal, let me say I oppose such a measure with all my might. I am pleading for the Retired Teachers of Iowa, who by reason of having worked like slaves during their earning years, have saved up enough to make one big trip to Europe. If this travel tax goes through, there go their hopes of being able to make that dream trip.

The wealthy can still go, but not my retired teachers some of whom are even now trying to exist on such meager pensions that it is a disgrace.

Though I will not be traveling abroad this year, I feel strongly that this tax proposal on Travel is grossly unfair to retired people and all people over 65 who might not have another opportunity to travel. (1) Retired people, as well as students, teachers and business men should be exempted if the tax is passed at all. (2) The conditions of staying 120 days should be entirely eliminated.

I agree with Rep. James A. Burke, Democrat, Massachusetts, that, "For the amount of money we are trying to save we are doing more harm than good".

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We older citizens feel that when we have been loyal to our Government that our freedom to travel should not be taken from us when we have saved for thirty years to travel after our retirement. Later, we will not be physically or financially able to travel.

Our Federal Government is spending millions to get to the moon. What are we going to do when we get to the moon? The jet propulsion laboratory at Pasadena, California, and its Director, Dr. Pickeny, show by their pictures the rock formation, and that the moon is not habitable. Are we spending all this money just to prove and say that we have beaten the Russians to the moon? Would it not be more commendable to say that the Government has a sincere interest in its senior citizens, and doing something constructive for them?

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Aside from travel for pleasure many elderly persons, who are American citizens, wish to revisit their homelands while they are still able. They should not be deprived of this opportunity because of this ill-advised tax.

As an example, Skagit County Washington, where we live, has a large Scandinavian and Dutch population, many of whom have saved for years for a trip to the old country.

Furthermore, the image of our Country will be greatly damaged by a tax on foreign travel. What will happen to our position as the greatest nation on earth to uphold individual freedom if we resort to restraining by law personal spending while traveling abroad.

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I wish to say I feel this tax would be very unfair for those of us who wish to make a few trips during our retirement years. For those who have plenty of money it will make little difference. For those who live on small pensions and have tried over the years to save for retirement, it will mean giving up some trip already planned. I feel it is good for our country to have our people go to other countries.

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The proposed tax on travel will hit all members of the teaching profession hardest, especially the retired. It is discriminatory, exorbitant, unAmerican, and against every principle of Democracy. Once on, it will be increased yearly, making more and more jobs at the Federal level.

We, the so-called middle class, will soon be taxed out of existence. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". I'm sure the organization is doing something to prevent this new inroads to our freedom.

With reference to the proposed Travel Tax Bill, I must state that we are utterly opposed to any such action. This bill invokes a hardship on Retirees who have waited so long to visit their homelands once more. We believe that any savings which this measure would bring about are insignificant compared to the amount of money that is being wasted daily in Washington.

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I wish to go on record as opposed to the Administration's proposed travel tax. I am opposed in principle, believing that it will result in retaliatory action by