

The samples taken by the Office of Business Economics, Department of Commerce, for calculating the inbound and outbound volume of travel expenditures from which the so-called travel deficit is derived are regarded by your working party as inadequate, neither well balanced nor large enough, not taken frequently enough, suffering from an undue timelag, and using antiquated sampling and tabulating methods.

If you will check the records of your hearings you will find that the Secretary of the Treasury appeared here on February 5 and in his prepared statement admitted that he did not know how many Americans had traveled in Europe in 1967. The latest figure he had was for 1966.

Mr. Fowler said, and I quote:

The figure was undoubtedly higher last year, although the exact number will not be known for some months.

This bothers me because this is strictly a head count that has to be taken. It is taken daily by the Immigration people. Every time anybody comes through Immigration they are counted. I don't see why there is such a lag and a weakness in our figures.

You have heard all the argument that this proposed restriction of free travel by Americans through clumsy cumbersome taxes is a violation of the American's basic inalienable right to travel freely and to spend his own money.

There is no need to belabor that point any further, except to point out that I don't think it would be very American for you or for Congress to require your constituents to put up a bail bond like a criminal before being permitted to leave the country, which is what this proposed tax is.

You make a declaration of how much you have in your pocket and how much you are going to spend and you put up a bond or prepayment of a tax, which to me is like a bail bond. I resent it and I think most of your constituents will too.

I think this tax is an impossible tax because it is impossible to write so it falls in any kind of equity upon the population. You heard that this morning from the man who was testifying for the retirees. It is a tax that is impossible to sell the American people, from what I hear from them, and I firmly believe to their Representatives in Congress.

Worst of all, it is absolutely impossible to enforce. The bootlegging of prohibition days, which some of us elder citizens can still remember, will be nothing as compared to the flouting of the law that this tax will lead to and which generates further flouting of other laws.

The Treasury Department proposals are based on a couple of other fallacies as wild-eyed as some of their statistics. They speak of the "jet set" as if it actually existed.

This, gentlemen, is utter nonsense. There are a handful of people who flit around the world, getting their names in the so-called society or female pages of the newspapers. I would hazard a guess—I am really only half joking; I am half serious here—that if you added them all up you would get maybe 64 people, most of them not very impressive except to themselves and their friendly society editors.

I must admit that some travel writers, especially, magazine editors, have helped create this bogey-man of jet-setters. They did it in order to make their copy look brighter. They thought they could mislead