

and I hear rumors that there may be some move to simplify this tax to maybe something like a head tax.

I would just be interested to have your comments as to whether you are objecting to going to any type of travel tax.

Mr. FRIEDLANDER. Yes, I do; on a philosophical basis. I think there ought not to be any barriers to the free movement of people. I want our people to see the rest of the world, and conversely and even more emphatically, I would like to have the rest of the world see us because we have something to sell here. You cannot convince me that anyone from behind the Iron Curtain who spent a couple of weeks in the United States would not go home convinced that we didn't have a lot more here than they have there. This is our biggest asset.

I think we have done a very weak job of selling. I don't think you can convince people to come on over and see what we have if you put any barriers in front of them and in front of us.

In that connection, President Johnson proposed the other day in a letter to Congress that you eliminate the visa restriction and that we reciprocate. I think this is a long-overdue proposal. I would like to endorse this 100 percent. Anything that stands in the way of the free motion of people, impedes the free movement of ideas, I don't think we can afford that.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS. Just on that point do you feel that one of our big problems is these barriers that exist in the visa area. Are there any others? This visa problem has been pointed up to the committee along with other problems. Are there any other barriers that you think of that might be removed that are interfering with people coming to this country?

Mr. FRIEDLANDER. Yes. I think Government could do it very easily. We could do something about it much more convenient physically and much happier in the welcoming of people into the United States at our gateways. I think that we don't have enough customs inspectors, I don't think we have enough immigration and health people at the ports, to handle the flow of traffic at the peak periods. The facilities in which these men work, I think, are abominable in many respects. New York's Idlewild or Kennedy Airport is a disgrace at peak loads. Remember, this is the first image people have of the United States, and those piers on the North River in New York City are a disgrace, freezing cold in winter, beastly hot in the summer, no place to sit down.

With the conditions these men work under, they cannot possibly be expected to treat these people as they should. The men, themselves, are working under terribly difficult conditions. There is also, I think, the question of, once the people get in this country—of course, you are talking about barriers by the Government.

Mr. CURTIS. Yes, I am thinking of what government can do, like in this visa area. I know some people have told me that people in certain sections of Europe still think that they have to be fingerprinted, that there are a lot of questionnaires that they have to go through.

Another group was telling me that when they were planning conventions of various organizations in this country, they might find someone who is a Hungarian or Rumanian or Czech as one of their officers. Then they couldn't come so they canceled the convention.