

History has shown the pitfalls of American attitudes which assume that isolation from the world community is possible. Now, more than ever, Congress should search for indirect means to achieve the same ends. And not the least of these avenues might lead through the tightening of military spending, since the greatest single budgetary expenditure is for "defense." To oversimplify a bit, who want to see the day when an American can afford a visit to foreign countries only by enlistment in the U.S. Navy?

JOSEPH G. MASON,
*University of Michigan Law School,
Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

The LISLE FELLOWSHIP, INC.,
Ann Arbor, Mich., February 1, 1968.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ESCH: I am writing this letter to express the deep concern of the Lisle Fellowship, Inc., about the proposed heavy tax on foreign travel which does not include adequate exemption for students or faculty traveling abroad for educational purposes. In his State of the Union Address, President Johnson did express in general terms that students, faculty and researchers might not be included in the tax proposal for travel abroad during the coming year. I would recommend that this general statement be specified and that the exemption from any proposed tax be seriously considered for students, faculty and researchers.

My experience as the International Director of the Lisle Fellowship, Inc.'s International Educational Programs for over thirty-two years has led me to know that students should be free to travel abroad as a part of their educational experience. Even though their funds are limited, it is during the years of their college and/or graduate work that young adults have one summer or year free to travel abroad. I would note that the expenses for the travel of most students are paid in the United States and while abroad the students actually spend meager amounts of money, especially when compared to the commercial tourist who is traveling with ample funds for high class living when abroad and who intends to bring large amounts of purchases home from abroad.

If it were necessary to make a distinction on the types of travel which would be exempt from a special tax, I believe such a distinction should be made for those students who are to participate in and travel abroad, whether for a summer or a year round experience, with recognized educational programs. Those students could be exempt from any proposed tax on international travel through a letter of confirmation of their participation from the educational institutions and agencies with which they are associated.

I would put a very important emphasis on the fact that to put barriers in the way of young people participating in educational experiences in which they can come to know other peoples and other parts of the world, would be most unfortunate in a time when the United States has a very large part to play in developing cooperation among nations, in building for a more equalized standard of living among all peoples and especially in planning constructively for peace. Students who have the vision and foresight to broaden themselves in the understanding of other cultures and peoples will bring the leadership the United States needs in its government services, in business and in education. We should not cut off the very best possibilities for developing adequate, broad-minded, understanding future leaders through a prohibitive tax on educational travel . . .

Sincerely yours,

DE WITT C. BALDWIN,
International Director.

FEBRUARY 4, 1968.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ESCH: I view with great alarm the proposal of the President that Americans be taxed for travel outside the Western Hemisphere.

Many of us have planned such travel because of family connections. My wife and I wish to visit her family in Germany this spring and the prospect of government actions counter to our trip is distressing to us.

This proposal on the President's part is not a new one. Three years ago he suggested a head tax for approximately \$100.00 per foreign traveling American. The unpopularity of the idea forced him to drop it immediately. And now he is at it again.