

Mr. Chairman, freedom of movement and the right to travel is in my opinion just as essential in our society as are the rights of association and of peaceful assembly. I cannot in good conscience vote to restrict this right. Without objection, I include as part of my remarks copies of correspondence relative to the travel tax proposal.

D'ERRICO TRAVEL AGENCY,
Providence, R.I., March 4, 1968.

HON. ROBERT O. TIERNAN,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: We wish to assure you that we are in complete accord with your opposition to any travel restriction or travel tax.

The damage this proposal for restrictions and tax can cause are well known to you, and your opposition is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH J. D'ERRICO.

MARTINEZ-MARTELLA TRAVEL BUREAU, INC.,
Providence, R.I., March 5, 1968.

Congressman ROBERT O. TIERNAN,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIERNAN: We are very pleased to learn from your letter of February 29, 1968, that you are opposed to the President's proposed travel restrictions. We have noted the increasing Congressional opposition to these proposals through the trade publications. We feel that these proposals would not pass the Congress.

Still, there is concern in this agency because we are now experiencing a very idle period. We blame this idle time to the initial shock of the proposal. People call on us every day to find out about the taxes and restrictions, and when they will become effective, but they do not make reservations.

This agency has been and still is an ethnic agency. It deals mostly with Italo-Americans. Our income is completely dependent upon their travel to Italy where they visit families they have left to come to this country. We do have many clients who travel to other places in Europe, but Italy is always included so that they may see distant relatives and the birthplaces of their parents.

Our clients are not interested in travelling to Hawaii or around America, or to the other countries within this hemisphere. If they have the money, they want to go to Italy. Some of our clients still intend on going to Italy, but for most of them, the burden of a tax is too great. These people are factory workers and in the low to middle income bracket. They have saved, in many instances, for years to take this trip. If these people cannot travel to Italy, because of the restrictions, this agency will be out of business by the end of this year.

This year our agency, in an attempt to expand from an ethnic agency reputation, set up two tours and took on a charter group to Ireland. We are now in the process of cancelling one group and revamping the second tour, due to a rise in cancellations of the participants and the lack of time to fill the vacancies. The charter to Ireland is filling, but hotel and car-rental bookings which are normally large are very small.

With the loss of the expected tour commissions and the expense and effort to initiate them, and the incalculable losses due to the lack of bookings for the coming summer season, we will have a very lean year. Should the proposals become law, we will have to close our doors.

This applies not only to us, but to all the other agents who are basically ethnic. It must be remembered that agents represent others. If agents start to close down because of lack of business, it is a reflection of something larger. We think that the proposals of the President would have an adverse and far-reaching effect on the whole travel industry.

We wish you the best of luck on our behalf and wish to thank you for advising us of your position. Thank you, also, for giving us the opportunity to explain our situation in relation to the proposals. We are

Sincerely yours,

PAUL V. FOLEY, Treasurer and Manager.