

FIELDS AND CUSICK TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.,
Warwick, R.I., March 5, 1968.

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

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIERNAN: Thank you for your letter of February 29 requesting my opinion on the President's recent proposal on travel of United States citizens abroad.

It is hard enough for increasing numbers of Americans to accumulate the extra money to finance an excursion to a foreign country without having to pay the government for the right to take the trip. One of the serious criticisms of the tax proposal, we feel, is the infringement on their rights as Americans to travel as they please.

I would like to see the administration put more emphasis on programs to attract foreign visitors to the United States. Travel is our greatest educator and the link which allows an understanding between the peoples of the world.

I am glad to hear of your opposition to the tax and wish you success in the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Sincerely yours,

MARY B. RUPKEY, *Treasurer.*

PLANTATIONS TRAVEL SERVICE,
Providence, R.I., March 9, 1968.

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

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIERNAN: I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter dated February 29 regarding the President's recent proposal to levy a tax and also to impose certain restrictions on the travel of United States' citizens to countries located outside the Western Hemisphere.

I was pleased to note from your letter that you have opposed the proposed tax and I agree with you wholeheartedly that there are other and more constructive means by which our balance of payments can be reduced.

It appears to me that in addition to rupturing the friendly relationship we now enjoy with many nations, we could conceivably lose a great amount of export business if such taxes and limitations are imposed.

I am attaching a copy of a statement made by Mr. John M. Frazer, Jr., Senior Vice-President of the Swedish American Steamship Lines and a copy of an editorial written by Mr. Irwin Robinson, Publisher of our travel paper entitled, "Travel Weekly". I believe these gentlemen have expressed the feelings of everyone associated with the travel industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that as one of your constituents I am a resident of the Buttonwoods section of Warwick.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM L. PEARSON.

[From Travel Weekly, Feb. 13, 1968]

THE PLOT TO KILL TRAVEL

(By Irwin Robinson)

The "solution" which the U.S. Treasury Department has recommended to ease the imbalance of travel payments suggests psychiatric rather than economic analysis. It is grotesque in concept, an administrative monstrosity and clearly the path to chaos for the general public and disaster for the travel industry.

The proposal looks more like psychedelic art than a blueprint for monetary improvement. It could have been conceived only by people far removed from everyday reality. Thus, it confirms persistent reports of the presence, in the inner sanctum of the Treasury Department, of a group of influential "think" men who suffer from acute travelphobia, who are either unaware or disdainful of America's global commitments and whose idea of ultimate triumph is to erect an iron super-curtain that would insulate our peripatetic population from any contact with "furriners".

In attempting to whip American travelers into line and the travel business out of existence, the Treasury has assumed a posture that is strangely out of