

In Sweden, the Swedish American Line has a Visit America program, whereby we urge people to visit their friends and relatives in the United States in line with the United States Travel Service suggestion. This program was inaugurated about five years ago, and has proven very successful in bringing Swedish tourists to this country.

Not only does the Swedish American Line bring dollars into the United States, as outlined, but it also plays its part in providing a high standard of vacation cruises for American tourists to island nations and territories in the Caribbean. As four major islands in the Caribbean are part of the United States and tourism is the major industry of the islands—accounting for 80% and more of their national revenue—we are assisting the great tourist demand for sea transportation to the Caribbean islands. The United States would eventually suffer substantial losses if ship carriers were to be curtailed in their operations.

We thought you would like to have this information. It means your clients do not have to feel embarrassed or unpatriotic when they cruise with the Swedish American Line. On the contrary, they are participating in a two-way trade that is advantageous to the United States and its international payments.

We think it is important for you to understand this, because of the attempts being made to limit American travel, which we feel would not be good business in the long run for the United States. If Swedish companies are not permitted to earn American dollars, then it could well be that Sweden would be required to curtail purchases of American goods in order to improve her adverse trade balance with the United States which would further aggravate the U.S. deficit of payments.

The facts, as outlined herein, pertain to Swedish American Line and Sweden and, if you agree with us, you may wish to communicate your feelings to your clients and send a letter to your legislative representatives.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. FRASER, Jr.
Senior Vice President.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF RHODE ISLAND,
Cranston, R.I., March 6, 1968.

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

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIERNAN: I welcome the opportunity to record with you the concern expressed by many of our 63,000 members about the proposed restrictions on the travel of United States citizens abroad.

It seems to us that the Treasury Department's proposal has serious weaknesses:

1. It discriminates against those who have most to gain from travel—students, teachers and other low-income individuals.
2. It would be unwieldy, if not impossible to administer, and undoubtedly costly. The many opportunities for evasion are already obvious.
3. While no one can calculate the revenue which this proposal might bring the government, it seems obvious that these dollars will make no real contribution to the root problems.
4. It is already apparent that enactment of these restrictions will lead to retaliatory measures by various of our good customers abroad.

I believe that the constructive approach to this problem is far better than any restrictions on travel. I believe that the United States Government should do everything in its power to bring more travelers into the United States from other countries as a positive way of offsetting part of the dollar gap.

Our Club and the American Automobile Association have always supported the principle of freedom to travel as a basic right of all free people. It is on this thesis that our opposition to the restrictions is based.

Cordially,

E. S. HARDING, *Executive Vice President.*

PARAGON TOURS,
Providence, R.I., March 12, 1968.

Mr. ROBERT O. TIERNAN,
Member of Congress,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR BOB: Thank you for your letter relative to President Johnson's proposal on travel restrictions outside of the United States.