

the general public most definitely opposing these restrictions and feel that the repercussion caused by imposed restrictions will be such that will prove detrimental in many phases to the United States Government. We should try to promote travel within the United States by easing travel restrictions to foreigners by the United States Embassies in the respective countries and by inducing travel within the United States with attractive offers to visitors to our many natural and man-made wonders.

We thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

VALERIO MELLO.

[Editorial, second of a series, broadcast by WICE General Manager James K. Hackett on Thursday, Feb. 15, 1968]

WICE,

*Providence, R.I., February 15, 1968.*

WICE believes that President Johnson's travel-tax proposals must be defeated and we urge the State's congressional delegation to exercise all possible influence to insure the swift death of this plan. While WICE fully supports efforts to solve the balance-of-payments problem and the concept, "See America First," we offer the following reasons why our representatives in Washington should "kill this bad bill."

1. The plan infringes upon the basic rights of Americans to freedom of movement, and comes dangerously close to "caging" all Americans with economic restrictions.

2. It hits hardest the "little guy" while imposing no real hardship on the wealthy "jet set."

3. Many well-informed people believe the "gold drain" can be slowed or halted with action in several other areas where enormous amounts of federal money flow overseas—endlessly.

4. Foreign travelers planning vacations in the United States may very well institute a boycott of America.

5. The travel-tax may pose a serious threat to the economies of several nations.

6. It will create another mountain of federal "bureaucratic red tape" and the hiring of hundreds of new government employees.

Now who pays? Everyone! Everyone—except government officials—all the "posh junkets" at taxpayers' expense will continue untaxed—everyone except persons with permanent overseas residences—everyone except students and businessmen who spend more than 4 months overseas.

But what about you who may have close relatives in Italy, Portugal, Ireland and many other countries? What about the people who have "seen America first" and have been saving for that one, big vacation-of-a-lifetime? What about the "little guy?"

The travel-tax plan is unduly restrictive, discriminatory and practically unenforceable and we urge you to deluge our congressional delegation with a torrent of mail.

Write Senators John Pastore and Claiborne Pell, Senate Office Building, and Representatives Fernand St Germain and Robert Tiernan, House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. Urge them to "kill this bad bill!"

[Editorial, third and last of a series, broadcast by WICE's General Manager James K. Hackett on Feb. 19, 1968]

WICE,

*Providence, R.I., February 19, 1968.*

This is the last in the series of WICE editorials concerning the President's travel-tax proposals. To further investigate these proposals, WICE spoke with Don Perry, a public relations assistant to Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler, and asked him to clarify the exemptions to the proposed travel-tax. He told us there is no exemption for persons with close relatives abroad who might have to make a trip back to the "old country." This is contrary to President Johnson's state-of-the-union message. Thousands of Rhode Island and Southern New England residents have relatives outside the western hemisphere—mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, but even in case of emergency, a trip back to the "old country" would not be exempt from the President's travel-tax. However, all government officials are exempted. We asked Mr. Perry if that included congressmen and their staffs and he replied. "Yes, if they are on official business." (Congressmen, by the