

family in Quito, Ecuador. We had looked forward to increased opportunities for other youth, not to a curtailment of this program.

We urge that AFS be exempted from such overseas travel and expenditure taxes.

Very truly yours,

ELL DEE COMPTON.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., February 21, 1968.

HON. WILBUR MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I received from one of my constituents, Mr. Walter Derylo of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is a student at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. May I respectfully request that his letter be made a part of the record of the Committee in its hearings on the President's proposed travel tax.

Mr. Derylo points out an aspect of the President's proposals which merits the attention of the Committee, and it is for this reason that I am pleased to submit it to you.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD,
Member of Congress.

NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE,
Rome, Vatican City State, February 16, 1968.

HON. GERALD FORD,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FORD: I am a citizen of Grand Rapids and am writing to you with regard to the proposed traveling tax, which has recently been submitted to Congress by the Honorable Henry Fowler, Secretary of the Treasury, on behalf of the administration of President Johnson. I would like to state my objections to the bill *in toto* and then present a particular problem which confronts myself, my family and my friends.

There is considerable doubt in my mind that the tax measure will achieve the desired results. If we spend less money in western Europe, it seems likely that these countries will spend proportionately less in the United States. Thus the balance of payments deficit will be affected very little, except perhaps in an adverse manner. Certainly, it will deal a death blow to the campaign to attract more European tourists to the United States. A studied effort to increase the foreign market for American products seems to me to be the more logical attempt. Indeed, one could speculate on the damage the proposed tax would do on transportation services presently purchasing American products.

Granted my doubts about the economic effectiveness of the measures, I am opposed to the added strain that these measures would cause within the Atlantic Community. The tax could well lead to a series of reciprocal measures which could reverse the present tendency toward economic cooperation and be the first in a series of selfish, self-defeating protective measures.

If it appears that it will be impossible to defeat the entire bill, then I would ask you to make representations for the following group by writing an amendment to the bill. I would be deeply gratified if you would present our case before the Congress on this matter. The representation is on behalf of FRAE, Friends of Roman American Ecclesiastics. It was founded eleven years ago with the purpose of bringing to Rome, at the most economical rates, the parents, relatives and close friends of students here at the Pontifical North American College who are ordained each December to the Catholic Priesthood while completing their four year course of theological studies. Similar to a funeral, wedding or graduation, an ordination is a family affair in which the entire family is ac-