

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., February 20, 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 Theodore H. Hubbell, Professor of Zoology at the University of Michigan, which I respectfully request be made a part of the record of the Committee in its hearings on the President's proposed travel tax.

Professor Hubbell 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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY,
Ann Arbor, Mich., February 15, 1968.

HON. GERALD R. FORD,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: President Johnson's proposal for a tax on foreign travel will doubtless come before the House soon for consideration. I wish to register a strong protest against it as it affects the class of persons that includes my wife and me. We are among the group of retired educators, scientists and middle-income professional people who have saved for years to be able to afford an extended trip after retirement. We are at an age when postponement might well prove to be permanent. We must budget carefully to be able to travel at all, and the added tax may well make our earned and long-anticipated visit to foreign lands impossible. This of course, is the intent. We realize that the balance-of-payments deficit constitutes a serious problem, but the travel tax is not the way to solve it. In particular, cutting off the older group to which we belong would have little effect; we are not the heavy spenders. The tax will have little impact on the wealth, and will not seriously reduce their spending abroad. We are not unpatriotic, and if imposition of this tax were the only possible solution and would do the job we could accept its necessity and give up our plans. To us, however, it seems evident that there are other and more effective measures that can be taken, which would not infringe upon our right to use our modest savings as we have long planned to do, and which would not penalize elderly persons like ourselves who have no time to lose. Our particular case, described below, is merely a special instance of a situation that confronts thousands of others, for whose hopes and expectations the tax would be equally catastrophic.

I am a professor at the University of Michigan, until last year also Director of that institution's Museum of Zoology. My retirement begins in July, when I shall be 71 years old. My wife, who will also retire at the same time at age 70, has worked in the Institute for Fisheries Research of the Michigan Department of Conservation for 17 years, at first to help put our three children through college (one M.S., two Ph. D.s), and in the last few years to help build up a modest travel fund. We have a few thousand dollars saved specifically for the purpose of travel after retirement. At present we are in good health, but of course cannot know how long this will continue.

For over a year I have been committed to attend the International Entomological Congress in Moscow in August, 1968, for which I have already paid the registration fees for my self and wife as member and associate member, and have made advance payments to Cosmos Travel Agency for air transport, accommodations and planning of the trip. After the Congress we will do some work in the zoological museums of Moscow and Leningrad, my wife assisting me, and then visit a few of the historic cities of Russia. Then we plan to go via several of the eastern Mediterranean countries, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Malaya and the East Indies to Australia, where we will join a younger colleague from the University of Michigan for a month's field work on the group of insects we both study. Afterward we will continue via New Zealand, perhaps New Guinea,