

of a family in another country. In this unfamiliar environment, the participant takes his beginner's lessons in coping successfully with the people of another society.

The United States has a vested interest in the education of its youth for world responsibility. For this reason, a host of eminent leaders in education, government, and private enterprise have reached the common conclusion that a significant educational experience abroad will one day be a mandatory feature of any good liberal-arts education in the United States.

To make the essential point, we must not discourage the education abroad of those outstanding young Americans who will staff the coming generation of citizen-leaders, for the sake of short-term gain in our balance-of-payments position.

There are six ways in which the Travel Tax Program might be implemented without prejudice to those overseas programs which have genuine educational merit:

1. Congress and the Administration must somehow remove the stigma recently attached to student travel abroad. The sense of disservice to the nation should be dispelled by the unequivocal statement of Congress or the Administration that it is *not* unpatriotic to go abroad when the purpose is primarily educational.

2. Students or teachers going abroad for even a short period of time should not be required to pay taxes on any sums expended on their behalf by colleges, universities, secondary schools, and organizations recognized as nonprofit by the Internal Revenue Service, when these expenditures constitute part of the arrangement for *bona fide* educational programs, provided that:

- (a) The traveler is a student or teacher in good standing at the secondary-school, undergraduate, or graduate level.

- (b) He is going abroad on a recognized educational-exchange program *with* built-in opportunities for getting acquainted with the citizens of the nation visited.

3. Some small part of the proposed 5% tax on international air travel should be allocated to construction of low-cost student accommodations—youth hostels, perhaps—for both American and foreign students traveling within the United States.

4. The Administration should facilitate the sale of government-owned foreign currencies to private, educational-exchange organizations, such sales to be made in dollars paid in the United States, with equivalent foreign currencies paid on demand abroad.

5. A special effort should be made to encourage private educational-exchange organizations to develop reciprocal programs with other nations—that is, to bring roughly as many exchange students to the United States as they send abroad.

The Experiment wishes to add its own strong endorsement to the many initiatives already undertaken or suggested to stimulate a heavier flow of foreign visitors to the United States as the most constructive and viable approach to the balance-of-payments problem.

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY AND THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEAGUE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, The American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), with offices in Greenwich, Connecticut, is a non-profit, non-denominational organization of American secondary school students and teachers, with over 18,000 members. It was founded in 1964 to facilitate the understanding of foreign countries, their languages and cultures by young Americans. As one of its major activities, AIFS conducts summer academic programs for American high school students and teachers at distinguished European universities and schools; over 4,500 students and teachers participated in its 1967 summer programs.

Foreign Language League Schools (FLL), with offices in Salt Lake City, Utah, is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian organization which operates summer study schools throughout Europe staffed by its own instructors. It is one of the largest, oldest and most experienced international educational institutions. In 1967, FLL enrolled 4,800 students in its summer courses at campuses throughout Europe. FLL distributes each year a number of scholarships for its summer program to students from underprivileged homes, as does AIFS.