

CONCLUSION

AIFS and FLL are grateful for this opportunity to present their views to this Committee. We respectfully urge that in the formulation of legislation the interests of American students and teachers pursuing summer educational programs abroad, as well as the national interest in the continuation of such programs, not be ignored.

STATEMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Institute of International Education is one of the major agencies involved in the administration of educational and cultural exchange programs, among the most important of which is the Fulbright-Hays Program for graduate students which IIE has administered on behalf of the Department of State for more than twenty years.

The Institute is concerned with the proposed legislation for a federal tax on foreign travel, as it is equally concerned with the nation's fiscal problem which this measure seeks to alleviate.

The important role which educational exchange plays in American foreign policy and in the commitment the United States has made to assist in the economic, political and social development of emerging countries is well known. The U.S. Government has for many years supported exchange programs for these purposes and, perhaps no less important, for the purpose of fostering international understanding and equipping American citizens with an appreciation of and a capacity to participate effectively in the many walks of life which have international implications. To an equal and even greater extent, foundations, private organizations and universities are involved in this field.

In his Smithsonian address, as well as in his February 1966 address to Congress, President Johnson urged us to embark on a "new and noble adventure" which included among its purposes one "to advance the exchange of students and teachers who travel and work outside their native lands." We share this objective of the President and we are naturally anxious to protect the important field of educational exchange from erosion.

We recognize that the proposed legislation will not jeopardize exchange programs or impose a burden upon participants in exchange programs of more than 120 days duration.

We are, however, troubled by the implication of this proposed legislation that educational programs of a shorter duration are not equally valid in academic terms. It is an assumption which we do not believe to be tenable. The scholar who goes abroad to do two months of research in a laboratory or library is no less serious in his purpose, and his work is no less significant than is the scholar who spends a year abroad for similar purposes. The professor who gives a summer course at a foreign institution is no less actively and meaningfully engaged in education than his colleague who spends a year at a foreign university. The student who enrolls for a summer semester at a foreign university or participates in a summer academic program abroad sponsored by his own university or who independently spends three months in research in a foreign land is no less actively and seriously engaged in education than his fellow student who has the good fortune to spend a year in such pursuits.

For many students and scholars, the opportunity to study abroad is an important and, sometimes, essential aspect of their academic careers. For many, the opportunity to do so is limited to relatively brief sojourns abroad. Some are free only during the summer. Some, particularly students, have limited resources which do not permit extended stays abroad. Some need only relatively brief sojourns abroad to fulfill their academic objectives.

IIE administers grants for a large number of Americans each year who travel abroad for purely professional and scholarly purposes. Many of these grants are for periods of less than 120 days.

Some may argue that, like tourist travel, professionally-related travel for research or study can be delayed for a year or two without undue inconvenience or loss to the individual. We would dispute this. Travel by scholars and professional people—and students—cannot be judged by the same criteria as tourist travel. The scheduling and success of a research project may well depend on a man's presence abroad at a particular time. The student's maturation and career plans may well dictate the point at which he can most effectively study abroad.