

We of the V.F.W. believe that no financial penalty should be imposed on the next of kin or loved-one to visit a military graveside overseas. To impose any form of added tax or restriction on such a sacred pilgrimage would, in effect, amount to penalizing those whose journey helps keep our nation's solemn pledge that those who died in battle for us will not be forgotten.

Therefore, Mr. President, on behalf of the 1,400,000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and all of those who mourn for one lost in combat and buried in a foreign field, I respectfully urge that no financial impediment or restriction in any form be imposed upon those who travel overseas to the military graveside of a loved-one or a relative.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH A. SCERRA,
Commander in Chief.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION,
WILSON COLLEGE,
Chambersburg, Pa., February 20, 1968.

HON. WILBUR DEAN MILLS,
*House Ways and Means Committee,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: This letter is written out of intense concern about the proposed travel tax that is now before your committee.

I am one of a large number of religion scholars concerned with the religious complex of Asia. A significant portion of our scholarship requires our presence from time to time on the field. Also we find it very important to send our advanced students for brief visits in order to acquire firsthand knowledge of their subject matter, much of which will be of service to the nation in the future.

The proposed tax would make it very difficult for us to carry on our work, and I am writing to urge you to use whatever influence you have to defeat this legislation, or at least make the necessary exceptions for those of us whom Asian travel is not tourism.

Faithfully yours,

HARRY M. BUCK,
Treasurer.

CATHOLIC TRAVEL OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., February 16, 1968.

HON. WILBUR D. MILLS,
*Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you please be kind enough to note the enclosed tear sheet—this open letter to the President of the United States and the members of Congress appeared on Page 14 of the January 18th issue of the Catholic Standard, the January 15th issue of the Washington Post and other newspapers throughout the United States. [Material is in the committee files.]

We strongly oppose the suggestions by the Treasury Department which will cost more to put into effect than would be realized by Secretary Fowler's proposals. May we respectfully suggest the following:

- (a) 5% Transportation Tax on all International Tickets issued in the U.S.
- (b) Eliminate all duty free allowance, making all overseas purchases taxable at current rates.
- (c) Reintroduce the \$10.00 head tax for all travelers entering the U.S.
- (d) Make counterpart funds available so that travel agents and operators may purchase vouchers from the U.S. Treasury in United States dollars, for equivalent currency on whatever countries where funds are available. This should enable the U.S. Treasury to use up the One Billion Dollars in counterpart funds that have been sitting idle for the past twenty or so years.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN G. HODGSON, K.H.S.,
President.