

Caribbean. In fact, based only on the theoretically simple trade exchange in travel between any two nations, it would make more trade sense to declare economic warfare against Canada or Mexico, and possibly, both. Now, as to the misunderstanding of economic facts, travel is being listed as a part of the Balance of Payments, while we know travel between nations is interdependent and positive, and should not be listed as such.

The Balance of Trade (positive) is part of the Balance of Payments (negative), but not a part that is causing a negative Balance of Payments. We all know what the supposed negative items are.

However, my colleagues have made, and will continue to present, more facts about the effect on economies of foreign nations and the threat to American industry of restrictions. These retaliation threats range from less Visit U.S.A. travel and the non-purchase of our big airplanes to thousands of other items with a lack of earned dollar exchange which will prevent overseas purchases of American goods and, consequently, the loss of American jobs.

America must never be beaten down by these potential threats, but neither should we give in to half-truths, information based on assumptions, incorrect sampling, inadequate research, political beliefs, or personal feelings, which is the information we have been reading about lately.

Now to the restrictions against shopping for returning American tourists: It will be good for this year and next, if passed, but in future years, any such restrictions will result only in increased travel expenditures. Shopping is an inherent part of tourism. It is an exchange of cultures, customs, and concepts, as much as any art or studies. Tourists have a certain amount of disposable income to spend. Monies spent on shopping are monies of tourism diverted from the joys of "wine, women, and song." It will be spent instead of, not in addition to, travel expenditures.

The 5% tax, which will probably be a willing compromise of many of us who would surrender at the first shot, and will not effect the Balance of Trade, but will be another method of raising taxes, should not be discussed as Balance of Trade. The history of the tax is not too far in the dim past not to be remembered as devastating to the travel agencies in the border cities with Canada and Mexico. Such travel agencies represented the American community, and yet our biggest corporations and major airlines conspired to lie, purchase tickets over the border, and evade taxes.

The experience of many nations and tourism areas in taxing have demonstrated that if there is to be a nuisance tax such as the 5% tax on international transport, that instead it should be an airport and/or pier tax. And most important that this tax be used only for tourism promotion. Even the use of these monies for physical plant improvements is not to be recommended and certainly not for the United States.

In my opinion, the Internal Revenue Service has a very poor record of interpretation and administration of the present 5% tax on air transport. When the old anti-travel tax expired, the 5% tax was created as an excise tax. It was not meant to discriminate against American travel agents in the sale of domestic travel to eligible foreigners. But it did. This discriminated against the advent of American travel agents' slightest effort for Visit U.S.A. Tourism. In addition if this law is passed every traveler will feel that he will be subject to an authentic audit by the IRS.

Two years ago, I came home on Father's Day from a business trip to England. We parked, or rather double parked, in front of my apartment while I took the bags in. This resulted in a ticket.

When my wife went before the judge and said that it was given on Father's Day, and that I had just come back from Europe, his reply was, "If you can go to Europe, you can pay the full fine."

To tie travel taxes with income tax reports and internal revenue auditing is a threat to every American who honestly worries about his tax return.

To repeat, and I am speaking for All State Bus Corporation, and American Adventure Tours (pioneers in tourism sales to the United States) the Travel Marketing Institute (a non-profit association of marketing professionals in the travel industry) and the Brooklyn Association of Authorized Travel Agents, as well as the Travel Times (a consumer quarterly of over 150,000 circulation per issue)—the proposed taxes are negative. They range from incorrect, wrong, unnecessary, to objectionable, bad economics, terrible export selling, and economic immorality.

All this without even bringing into discussion the oft-repeated and sometimes forgotten beliefs of the United States and the United Nations that not