

Americans traveling abroad than there are foreigners visiting the United States, but this is natural thing. After all, this is the United States of America, the bulwark of freedom, and Americans all through history have been able to move about freely, while there were other nations who kept their people in.

To merely subtract the income derived from foreign tourists from the outgoing expenditures of American tourists abroad does not give the true picture. Consideration should be given to the enormous amounts of money spent by foreign governments and foreign airlines in the United States to generate and promote travel. Most airlines buy their planes in the United States, and millions of dollars are spent in advertising and promotion in the United States. Thus, many industries would be adversely effected if overseas travel were curtailed. And, as many retail travel agents would be forced to do, we would be forced out of business which would mean five people other than myself would be seeking employment in another field or be unemployed.

However, much more important is the ideological aspect. Freedom of movement . . . Travel . . . is an inalienable right of the free man. Travel is no more the rich man's pleasure. It is now in the realm of the common man. It may be recreation . . . but, recreation of spirit and mind, broadening and enriching one's mind. It comes in the same area as reading, listening to music, etc., and one cannot imagine curtailment of these things . . . in other words, curtailment of education. Thousands of students and teachers travel, and who would think of curtailing education in the broader sense?

Another aspect is that the United States Government spends money on the United States Information Service, the Peace Corps, etc., all necessary to tell the true American story abroad. In the past American tourists may have run up against criticism here and there, which is normal among human beings, but do not underestimate the knowledge they have spread abroad about life in the U.S.A., if it was only because of personal contact. In dealing with our clients we have always promoted the idea, "Travel is the Passport to Peace". In this shrinking world of ours, where we are already reaching out into space, it is inconceivable to stop free men from meeting each other.

In endeavoring to combat the so-called travel deficit, the only healthy manner is to step-up the good work of the U.S. Travel Service by giving them a much larger appropriation in order to promote tourism towards the United States on a much larger scale. And here, too, it is not just economics. It is extremely important for the United States to have more foreigners visit the country to see for themselves what American life is all about, instead of only deriving their information about the U.S. through often misinformation and slanted news reports. There should be more services established to provide ease of travel for our foreign visitors, which would employ many foreign speaking people not presently employed, or not employed where they are using this knowledge and ability.

Again, I urge extreme caution in the approach to this matter. After all, hitting the travel industry is hitting human beings. Tourists cannot be thrown in the same baskets as commodities.

Respectfully submitted,

Miss GENE TAYLOR,
Manager-Partner.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRAVEL SERVICE,
Whitinsville, Mass., February 17, 1968.

Mr. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
1102 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: This letter is a formal statement of protest against the proposed legislation to restrict travel.

It is my feeling that any retention of dollars due to these restrictions will be more than offset by losses in exports and losses in dollars spent in this country by foreign travelers.

I would respectfully like to submit the following proposal to correct the balance of payments deficit:

1. Encourage foreign travel in this country by increasing the advertising budget to promote this travel.

2. Stop giving away dollars in our aid program as it seems to me it is better to let countries earn dollars than giving them to them for nothing.