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MEADOWBROOK TRAVEL AGENCY,
East Meadow, N.Y., February 12, 1968.

Re travel tax proposals.

Mr. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: This letter is in regard to Mr. Fowler' tax proposal on a graduated tax on expenditures in connection with travel outside the Western Hemisphere, which we are protesting.

Very sincerely yours,

MARIAN A. THOMPSON,
Owner/Manager.

MERRIMAC TRAVEL,
Lowell, Mass., February 23, 1968.

Re: travel ban.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MILLS: As Chairman of the New England Agents committee on travel liberty, I have done extensive research on the so called "travel gap." Since there are so many other gaps in the dollar drain, it is most unfortunate for the American Public that their rights to free movement are to be sacrificed for the sake of approximately 2 billion dollars, when we are spending 36 billion annually to preserve freedom in Viet Nam.

Even if you enacted the punitive legislation that the treasury department is advocating I am sure that by now, the press analysis which you would have read, has convinced you that the severe retaliation from abroad would cancel any savings you make. I have been further advised that EXPO 67 caused quite a bit of the imbalance.

Anything enacted beyond the simple tax on an international ticket, would be folly. Even, this tax, would have to be assessed at departure on any ticket brought abroad to duck the tax, lest firms would have their international offices purchase their tickets abroad.

Lest you feel that I am motivated by a self serving nature, please take cognizance of the fact that my business is *predominantly* domestic U.S.A. . . . my nick name is Miami Mike, which would not find me international! My close knowledge of the problem motivates me.

I am deeply concerned that the imprudent, ill-conceived, arbitrary piece of legislation that the treasury department has presented to you. It is the most fatal blow ever perpetrated on us American freedom loving people. The very punitive nature of it is without parallel in our history.

Chairman Mills, I would not write you in this manner if I had nothing to offer! For two years I have anticipated this problem, and have been thinking out the solution for this time. It is not a panacea, but I know it will work, as well as you know your business.

Here it is: The problem; There are literally hundreds of tours for U.S.A. citizens to visit Europe . . . stop in to any travel agent. There are virtually no tours for Europeans to come here. Why . . . the simple reason that 1. Agents are inhibited by a 30 year old rule, Sect. 211 of the I.C.C. act, prohibiting agents from running bus tours! ! !

2. These tours, so set up, must have separate departures for each ethnic country abroad. We publish one tour of Europe, and it fits 200,000,000 Americans. To market abroad, we need one for each major country.

In other words, asking Europeans to come here, without us having the goods, is folly. We must *produce* these ethnic tours, then market them. *Not* spend a fortune on U.S.T.S. when I can tell you truthfully, that the United States of America is *not* currently equipped with tours for these people.

Please read the enclosed report [in committee file], with the understanding that, if punitive legislation is enacted on our travelers, the Europeans will just boycott us and compound the problem. We have been buying their good will for years, why kill it now!

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL A. SPINELLI, Owner.