

This proposed legislature is discriminatory and unjust and possibility of being unconstitutional.

It is unenforceable, unworkable and full of loopholes.

It is against the American principle of free and unrestrictive movement.

It is a short sighted expedient which will not solve any problems but will very well create more serious future problems.

We strongly feel that the rights of American citizens are in serious jeopardy and such legislature is against every principle and precept of the American way of life.

Cordially,

PRESTON C. JOHNSON,
Vice President.

SOCHOR TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.,
Endicott, N.Y., February 15, 1968.

Re proposed "travel taxes."

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

DEAR MR. MILLS: The recently advanced ideas on procedures and rates of travel taxes show more clearly as time goes by, how impractical and unfair the entire idea is.

The enclosed Binghamton (N.Y.) Press editorial, "Invitation to Fraud", shows how unwise it would be to go through with this proposal. Yes, I agree that if so passed, it would mean a great increase of Federal payroll and thus eat up whatever they would collect.

Still another bad feature is that a great many travellers would simply start and finish their European trips in Canada or Bermuda, without exhibiting their passports to U.S. Authorities. There are many other reasons against. One of them, that the *ordinary traveller is the least guilty of our Dollar problems*; the trouble being in other spending—giving areas. Still another, where U.S. factories would sell less abroad if travel was really reduced and the flow of dollars to our foreign customers thereby cut. Yes, other countries would surely retaliate in one manner or another.

Judging by the confusion and fears by a large portion of our potential clients, if this hasty proposal is seriously considered, we will very likely have to cut some 3 to 5 persons in our own little office, from the present employment of 14 people. How much damage to America, both in cash and reputation, at home and abroad, this self-defeating tax monster will do, is impossible to say.

Since the administration of this proposed regulation would probably cost as much as it may take in and still do much damage elsewhere, we are asking you to do everything possible to withdraw this proposal outright.

However, to help our Treasury in its time of need, we would suggest a simple, efficient, fair and almost painless travel tax STAMP (size of a postage stamp) of \$10.00, to be purchased by every adult person named on a U.S. Passport—at the airport or seaport, just before boarding. This inexpensive handling of tax collection, coupled with serious efforts by the government to reduce its own foreign spending, and measures suggested by others of how to increase the flow of incoming travellers, may be the answer.

But not the proposed plan. It should be cancelled—and soon—before it does more damage.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. SOCHOR.

[Editorial—Binghamton (N.Y.) Press, Feb. 12, 1968]

INVITATION TO FRAUD

The Johnson Administration's proposed travel taxes would apply to almost everyone; there are few exemptions; tax-free allowances are very small, and there is an effort to hit the big spenders hardest. That is the best that can be said about them.