VAGABOND CRUISES AND TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.,
*Seattle, Wash., February 26, 1968.*

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
*Longworth House Office Building.*
*Washington, D.C.*

(Attention of John M. Martin, Jr., Chief Counsel).

GENTLEMEN: The enclosed article published in the Bremerton Sun, Bremerton, Washington expresses more fully and adequately than I could state my own views of the recent proposals concerning limitations on travel.

Having been employed during the past 14 years in a small, 4-person travel agency, I have some experience and knowledge of how such pronouncements affect the travel agency's business and customers. Already this current proposal has created uncertainty and doubt in the minds of our customers, so that they will not definitely make a commitment until some more definite measures are known.

Meantime, we are trying to keep our business operating, pay our employees, and reassure our customers that we hope to be able to continue to make travel arrangements for them.

Most sincerely yours,

BARBARA BIRD, *Secretary/Treasurer.*

[From the Bremerton Sun, Saturday, February 24, 1968]

PROPOSED CURBS ON TRAVEL ARE JUST PLAIN RIDICULOUS

(By Jenkin Lloyd Jones)

In all the sweepstakes for foot-in-the-bucket legislation President Johnson's proposed taxes on travel outside the Western Hemisphere should win at least a red ribbon.

It is, in the first place, an effort to blame on tourists what is chiefly the fault of the economic philosophy of the Great Society. The gold-drain stems, essentially, from fear by foreigners of the future of the dollar if our huge annual deficits continue.

Secondly, the Administration has apparently given up attempting to persuade major labor unions to keep their demands for wage increases in line with increased productivity per worker. Frankly inflationary wage settlements have been hailed with apparent satisfaction from the White House.

This raises the cost of goods we've been exporting. The loss of customers abroad diminishes our earnings of foreign currencies. And when we buy commodities from abroad because they are cheaper, we lose dollars. Brave talk about further reductions of tariffs in accordance with the Kennedy round will be utter moonshine if we don't begin to get our own economic house in order, for both labor and industry will soon be demanding high protective tariffs.

The idea of putting onerous taxes on Americans abroad except for those traveling in the Western Hemisphere is as political as it is illogical. The President, apparently did not want to anger our close neighbors, the Canadians and Mexicans, or risk the ire of our touchy friends in Latin America.

But contrast Brazil, a treasure house of natural resources, in which we have sunk nearly $3 billion in foreign aid, with little Finland which owes us only $30 million and has been religiously paying installments on its World War I debt. Which deserves the American visitor more?

As far as need to earn tourist dollars is concerned, compare hungry India with oil-rich Venezuela.

The proposal that Americans traveling in transatlantic or transpacific countries can spend seven whole dollars a day tax-free is ludicrous. The overseas expense accounts of our government officials should be pasted up on all the walls facing Pennsylvania Avenue.

The only way to see around Europe on $7 a day is to hitchhike, feign blindness and carry a tin cup. Even then you'd better stay out of Scotland.

The travel restrictions now proposed would encourage more dishonesty than any law since Prohibition. Think of the dodges:

There'd be the big Canadian goose-hunt dodge. You could carry thousands of dollars into Canada without question. Then you'd simply take a plane for Europe. If the host countries co-operated by not stamping your passport, there'd be no