

NEW YORK, N.Y., February 21, 1968.

CHIEF COUNSEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I put on record my strong opposition to any and all impediments to travel abroad, and I beg to make the following points.

(1) Freedom of travel is one of the greatest of the rights and privileges of Americans, and one of the most useful. Acquaintance with the civilization, culture, customs and languages of European countries makes an American aware of the situation of his country in the world, and makes him a better citizen by making him more international. As the acquaintance ripen into familiarity, the effect is deepened. (I have had great opportunity to observe the converse. When long ago I began to travel to Europe, Europeans seldom came to the USA except as diplomats or immigrants. The ignorance of America among Europeans was often appalling. It did harm to those countries as well as to ours).

(2) Friendships between Americans and Europeans are particularly valuable to international relations. It takes repeated visits to build up a circle of close friends in Europe. My wife and I have been doing this for many years, and I dare to say that we have deserved well in making good friends for ourselves who became good friends of America.

(3) Professional contacts between American and European professional people are valuable, and the more so the longer they go on and the oftener they are repeated. I am a physicist. I know by experience how good it is for both sides that the physicists of the USA should exchange views and experiences with those of Europe, in their laboratories and in their homes. I have done much of this myself. And yet if special exemptions were to be made for students and teachers I should not benefit by either, for I belong to neither class.

(4) There seems to be an idea that Americans abroad are lavish spenders belonging to the "jet set". Doubtless there are such; I do not know any. Much more abundant are other types: those who have saved money for years for a long-awaited trip; those who take package tours in which every item of expense is calculated and paid in advance; those like myself who live among the people and who shun luxury hotels and restaurants.

(5) There are other ways of attacking the balance-of-payments problem. I think first of the enormous outflow of investment capital, fourteen billion dollars in 1967 alone, according to President Johnson himself. Let this be curbed not just by the 11% that Mr. Johnson wants, but by enough to take care of the "tourist deficit" as well. Then there are the schemes for encouraging travel from Europe to USA, such as those described in yesterday's New York Times, and the ingenious scheme of Mr. Henry Reuss of the Banking & Currency Committee. Let these be used to the utmost, and see how things then go.

Respectfully yours,

KARL K. DARROW.

SAYVILLE, N.Y., February 26, 1968.

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: The work the Ways and Means Committee is now doing on the travel question will ultimately affect all citizens and taxpayers of this country. Therefore you will surely solve the problem in the best interests of everyone in this nation.

These are some of the reasons for *No Travel Restrictions*:

Both at home and abroad we should preserve our reputation as the *country of the free*.

It is not the time to endanger any peaceful and friendly international relations which generations of Americans have helped to create.

Tourism & travel could fit into the country's budget under the heading of *foreign aid*. It is the best form of aid, going through average U.S. citizens from all walks of life, directly to the working people of a foreign nation. That money is earned respectably by those pursuing a trade and is not a handout.

There would be a *cultural and educational lag* for the whole population if their teachers, fellow-students, co-workers and neighbors are no longer able to inform them about nations outside the western hemisphere.

A 5% transportation tax to equalize foreign & domestic fares would be considered reasonable.