

appeared in a recent Wall Street Journal which sets forth our feeling better than we could ever express it to you. We therefore quote this editorial to you:

"The striking thing about the Administration's proposed Travel Tax is that it is intentionally designed to interfere with the liberties of American citizens.

"That the tax will inhibit the ability of ordinary Americans to travel to Europe is not merely an unfortunate side effect. The whole purpose of the proposal is to allow the Government, in its ultimate wisdom and benevolence, to control the movement and spending of its citizens.

"It is all very well for the Administration to cloud the coercive intentions of the tax with deductions and other gimmicks. Yet in doing so it paints a curious picture of its own notions of social worth. It allows a \$7 daily allowance free and taxes the next \$8 a day at half the ordinary 30% rate.

"The intention, apparently, is to avoid interfering with the dirty shirt set, skylarking students and other minimal spenders. But the modest American who has put aside \$1,000—say, \$200 a year for five years—for the total expenses of three weeks in Europe will find he now needs about 15% more, which will prove painful if not prohibitive.

"To help enforce these elevated and discriminating notions, the traveler is faced with elaborate methods of repression. Report and justify and post bond before you can be released from the United States.

"It is also very well for the Administration to say the tax will expire in two years if Congress enacts it at all, but that is one we have heard before. Our own morning line has very long odds on this tax passing from the national scene any time before the current Administration does.

"Especially so since the Administration is doing nothing to attack the more basic causes of the balance-of-payments problem. It is not in any significant way cutting back on its own overseas commitments, which lie much nearer to the heart of the problem than tourism does. Nor is it pursuing the Governmental austerity at home which is the only internationally proven cure for payments deficits. At the same time it proposes the travel tax it presents a budget with a deficit, if everything goes exactly perfectly, of some \$8 billion.

"The travel tax, then, is merely the latest edition of a weary story. For the mistakes of their governors, the people will pay, *not only with their money, but with their freedom.*"

We are a retired couple and had planned that at this time of our lives, after many years of working and saving toward this end, we might enjoy the fruits of our labors and take a trip or two before settling down to the years of retirement ahead. My husband was in the service for 2½ years in World War II; we are the generation that suffered abominably through the worst depression this country has ever known following World War I; and now inflation threatens the very core of our economic lives, to say nothing of losing the basic freedoms our ancestors fought so desperately to preserve.

We fervently hope our complaint added to the many we know you will have received, will have some affirmative effect upon a completely irresponsible administration.

Yours very truly,

ETHEL M. LOUGHARY.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., February 23, 1968.

Mr. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MILLS: We wish to register our *opposition* to the proposed legislation to tax international air and water transportation, and especially the tax on expenditures outside the U.S.

This is a very short-sighted proposal and it will create endless problems, that will solve nothing in regards to the imbalance of payments problem, and will result only in confusion and chicanery, plus the expense of trying to police the travelers.

Let the Committee on Ways and Means rather try to cut down on junkets by members of Congress, their wives, and co-workers all over the world. This one step, easily implemented, can save dollars that are being spent that are highly resented by all taxpayers.

Very truly yours,

Mr. and Mrs. HERBERT FREEDMAN,
Los Angeles, Calif.