

Please give this your very serious consideration, and by all means we would urge that you vote against the tax.

Yours very truly,

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. BERBOWER.

ALHAMBRA, CALIF.,
February 19, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. MILLS: We wish to go on record as being opposed to the proposed legislation regarding the travel tax of which you are the chairman. We feel it is discriminatory and unjust and will work a hardship on the average traveler.

Mr. Fowler might have good intentions, but we, and many of our friends, feel that there are many, many loopholes and are very much against this proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. McCLARY.

GLENDALE, CALIF., February 16, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. MILLS: I wish to respectfully oppose the proposed legislation relating to the travel opposition as promoted by the president in his efforts to correct the balance of trade funds.

I consider it unjust and discriminatory. It touches a small comparative group and a small amount of the total problem of money spent abroad.

In my opinion, the results will prove to be exactly opposite to what should be accomplished. The impact of this kind of legislation will so antagonize foreign nations, both friendly and unfriendly, that they will curtail purchases in the United States in far greater amounts than are now being spent abroad.

I consider it opposed to our ideas of Freedom and absolutely unworkable if public opinion proves to turn in the direction it appears to be leaning.

I urge your committee to consider very carefully all the potential harm that could come from such distorted and short-sighted thinking.

Very sincerely yours,

H. PARK ARNOLD.

LONG BEACH, CALIF.,
February 23, 1968.

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

We are opposed—

because the proposed legislature is discriminatory and unjust and well may be unconstitutional,

because it is unenforceable, unworkable and leaves too many loopholes,

because it is against the American principle of free and unrestricted movement.

because it is a short-sighted expedient which will not solve any problems but rather create more serious problems in future,

because Americans are in jeopardy and Mr. Fowler's proposals are, in our opinion, a confession of failure and therefore a failure of the Treasury Department to cope with the imbalance of payments problem in a constructive manner.

JUSTIN N. CARTER,
Registered Voter.

MARGARET E. CARTER,
Registered Voter.

SEATTLE, WASH.,
February 26, 1968.

Mr. JOHN M. MARTIN, JR.,
Chief Counsel, Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MARTIN: My husband and I wish to be on record as being against the proposed travel tax program requested by President Johnson. An editorial

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.