

lead to economic reprisals. Indeed, there has been some talk of a boycott in Mexico on goods from the United States, although responsible elements in Mexico have tried to discourage such talk. They realize, as we do, that border commerce is a two-way street, and we should encourage it, not restrict it.

This return of the American tourist dollar is but one aspect of our busy two-way tourist commerce across our border. Total border transactions in 1966 showed \$521 million spent in the United States by residents of Mexico, and \$382 million spent in Mexico by residents of the United States.

Overall, Mexico spent more than \$1,024 million dollars in this country in 1966—64 percent of its total imports. Total exports by Mexico to the United States that year were \$648 million. This is a balance of payments in our favor of \$376 million.

As a billion dollar customer of the United States, Mexico deserves some special treatment.

The administration recognized the special conditions that pertain to our neighboring countries when it recommended that Western Hemisphere nations be exempted from the further restriction on tourist imports proposed this year. When your committee favorably reported H.R. 16241 last March, you wisely decide to exempt countries contiguous to the United States, when you voted to reduce duty-free imports still further, from \$100 to \$10.

You took this action, I believe, not simply as a good will gesture to our good neighbors, although that is important. You also felt, and correctly, that further reductions in tourist imports from our neighbors would further reduce the purchases by Mexico and Canada in the United States.

I am the author of a bill, H.R. 2025, referred to your committee, which would take still another step to improve the two-way commerce with our neighboring countries. My bill would restore to the 1965 limits of \$200 retail value of tourist goods, and 1 wine-gallon of alcoholic beverages, the amount of duty-free purchases which may be imported from a 5-mile area adjacent to our borders.

Passage of this bill would, I believe, contribute materially to the campaign which this Nation is conducting to increase the number of visitors from other nations to this country. Special rates in both fares and accommodations have been offered to bring visitors from abroad to this country.

I submit that visitors from our good neighbors to the north and south are just as important, and likely to spend a great deal more money. We can encourage their visits by lowering the restrictions that limit our visits to them.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I respectfully ask that you consider the special circumstances of our border areas and do whatever you can to keep our two-way border trade active.

Mr. BURKE. Thank you, Mr. White, for sharing your thoughts with us.

Mr. WHITE. It has been a pleasure, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BURKE. Our next witness is our colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. Eshleman. We appreciate your being with us this morning and you are recognized.