January 23, 1968

Dear:

In his message to the Nation on January 1, the President indicated that legislation would be requested to limit American tourist travel outside the Western Hemisphere. The precise nature of the legislation that will be sought has not been disclosed to the Congress at this particular time and will not be until the 5th of February. At that time, Administration spokesmen will present the program to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

This limitation of travel by Americans is a serious blow to individual liberty but the Administration has announced that it is an essential step to be taken together with others to protect the dollar. You may be certain that this request will be considered with the greatest of care when it comes before the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee. I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in bringing me your views on this problem of travel.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
February 9, 1968

Dear:

In his message to the Nation on January 1, the President indicated that legislation would be requested to limit American tourist travel outside the Western Hemisphere. The President indicated that this travel tax was necessary and must be considered as a part of his program to protect the American dollar. The details of the proposal were not made public until the 5th of February when they were presented to the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. The proposal consists of three principal parts: a five percent tax on airline and steamship tickets, a tax on daily expenditures abroad in excess of $7 per day and a reduction in the amount of duty free merchandise a tourist can bring back into the country. The Committee's reaction was far from enthusiastic.

This limitation of travel by Americans is a serious blow to individual liberty. Really it is an effort by the Administration to penalize the individual for the mistakes that have been committed by his government. These mistakes consist of too much spending and too much easy money. This is really what has brought the dollar under attack. In my judgment, we can cure this malady by severely reducing domestic expenditures and by returning to a sound money policy. If this were done, many of the Administration's innovations, such as the tourist tax, would not be necessary.

I want you to know that there are many others who share your views of this problem and I do appreciate your thoughtfulness in making your views available to me.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Travel Tax Exemptions

May 15, 1968

Dear:

I appreciate having your views on H.R. 16241. This measure is now before the Finance Committee but hearings have not been scheduled as yet. The action of the house of Representatives in denying the continuation of the exemptions you mention would, it seems to me, create a burden larger than the House anticipated. I have had similar comments from a number of others and will certainly have this in mind when the Committee begins consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
July 12, 1968

Dear:

The Finance Committee has decided that additional hearings should be held on the Administration's travel tax measure. No time has been set for further hearings but we have over fifty witnesses who have requested an opportunity to appear before the Committee in opposition to this bill. Considering how little time there is left in this Session, the prospects for the travel tax bill are not very bright.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen