

I want to make the point, since I am vice chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight which has been handling the greater part of the Travel Office matter and will be handling the FBI files matter this week, that this is not a political venture. In fact, quite the contrary. Our chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] has consistently tried to put this matter to rest. He has actually tried to close this investigation, but he has been unable to do so because at each juncture new information, questionable information, has come to our attention that has had to be pursued.

I would like to go back to the beginning of this situation. In 1993, the incoming Clinton administration wanted to replace certain employees of the White House who worked at the Travel Office. The Travel Office primarily makes travel arrangements for members of the media to travel with the President of the United States, a very important responsibility to the White House and to the public. These employees have been with the White House, on the whole, for a number of years, but they are not protected by Government civil service or other protections of their job. The administration had every legal right to change them if the administration wanted to do so.

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The administration, however, did not want to say we want to fire these people to put in our own political choices to handle these jobs, because they thought that would look bad. Instead they did something worse. Instead they trumped up a lot of charges against the individuals who worked at the Travel Office and besmirched the reputation of these people who had been devoted public servants under Presidents of both parties for a number of years.

When the smoke finally cleared and when the one criminal charge brought against one of those individuals was resolved by an acquittal, a finding of not guilty, the White House apologized for the handling of that matter. That should have ended it. The White House made a mistake, the White House admitted it made a mistake and apologized and that should have concluded matters. At least that is what our chairman, Chairman CLINGER, expected. But we did have a hearing to determine whether the investigations, the administrative investigations, into that matter were complete.

What did we learn at that first set of hearings? We learned that the White House had withheld documents from the investigators from various agencies who were investigating what happened at the Travel Office. That was not the end of it. When we learned that, we subpoenaed documents from the White House and we received a number of documents including a memorandum which was acknowledged by the then White House administrator that contradicted the explanation that was

given by the White House of how that mistake occurred. The White House had said a mistake was made but it was made by a certain level in the White House management and the people who made the mistake were suitably reprimanded. The problem is the memorandum authored by the person who was in charge of White House activities suggested very strongly that he was ordered by people higher than himself to take that action and he did not do it on his own.

So we have two contradictions right there: First we have a withholding of documents from people who are charged administratively to review what happened in the Travel Office. Then we have, when documents are produced, a contradiction from what the White House said happened to what apparently really happened.

We now have a new development. After we got the documents that contradicted the White House's earlier position, we subpoenaed additional documents. The White House resisted turning those documents over to Congress on the grounds of executive privilege. Executive privilege is most often raised for reasons of national security and that level. I believe there is such a thing as executive privilege. But after the Congress pushed the issue, after our committee voted contempt of Congress citations against individuals involved, numerous other documents have arrived, and that is where we learned that the White House had in its possession numerous FBI files on former Republican officeholders in the White House, including ordinary staff people who did not necessarily hold high positions. These kinds of records did not belong in the White House in the first place and once the White House knew they were there, they should have been sent back immediately, when they were not. Nobody knew about any of this until our committee found this information.

We will hold hearings this week, Mr. Speaker, and I hope these hearings will finally be the end of this matter, but do not count it.

TAXES ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOSS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, my message today is do not increase taxes on travel and tourism. Travel and tourism is now the second largest industry in America. It employs more people than any other industry in America, and is quickly becoming the largest industry in America and also the largest industry worldwide.

Several weeks ago President Clinton unveiled a new tax plan. This tax plan was a tax credit to be made available to students, college students for a 2-year period. That seems like a good idea. But who does the President want to pick up this tab?

The President has singled out the people who are already paying a stiff and heavy tax. The President has again targeted travel and tourism, people who are so busy at home working, they do not have time to come to Congress to watch all the tax bills that Congress is considering; basically middle-class people who are working hard to pay their taxes, raise their families.

These are the people that are being targeted again. An estimated 50 million people will be targeted under this new tax. Even if the idea is just an election-year ploy, a tax increase on travelers is the wrong step for us to take at this time.

First, travel and tourism brings in huge revenues into every single congressional district in America.

This new tax would also penalize American companies who are seeking new opportunities. Even if these businesses fail to find new customers, they still have to pay the tax.

Finally, a small segment of the population is being singled out to pay an additional tax.

Why would the President want to target travel and tourism? In economic terms, the industry already makes a huge contribution. Travel and tourism is the second largest industry, employing some 14 million American workers.

In 1995, 45 million international visitors came to the United States and they spent \$78 billion here. One of the reasons we had an over 18 percent drop, 18.6, to be exact, in our trade deficit in the month of April was because of foreign visitors. When people come here to the United States and buy products, it is the same as if we take those products, send them overseas and sell them overseas. Tourism is our leading export and it creates a \$20 billion trade surplus.

The industry is also responsible for some \$58 billion in taxes. It does not even include the user fees charged directly to travelers. Because of this industry, every American household pays some \$652 less in taxes. Let me repeat that. Because of the travel and tourism industry, the average American household last year paid \$652 less in taxes than they would have had to pay had it not been for the travel and tourism industry. Clearly travel and tourism is already paying its fair share.

If we do not suffocate the industry with new tax burdens, its future will be even brighter. By 2006 employment in the industry will increase some 50 percent. That means that in the next decade, in the next 10 years, the people that we have employed in travel and tourism, 14 million, will again be half as many, will be to 21 million people if we do not suffocate this industry.

Over the next 10 years, travel and tourism is expected to generate almost \$230 billion in new tax revenues. That is more than a 31 percent increase in tax revenues over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, the President want us to make a choice, but basically we should not have to choose between education and the tourism industry. Both

can prosper. But helping travel and tourism will create jobs and increase tax revenue. That means more money for education. Or we can treat travel and tourism like a cash cow and try to extract every cent that the Congress can out of this industry. That price will be high.

Last October President Clinton presided over the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism here in Washington, DC. He made a very fine speech. At the conference the President praised the industry and its achievements. He pledged to work with the industry to increase tourism in the United States.

To put on an additional tax, this is not the kind of help that the travel and tourism industry was looking for. This is not the kind of help that the people who run our restaurants, who run our various shops throughout the country, this is not the kind of help they were looking for.

Travel and tourism is under attack again. Instead of delivering the help, the President has promised to send in the IRS. Mr. Speaker, it is the wrong approach to take.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Member (at the request of Mr. MONTGOMERY) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHIFF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DORNAN, for 5 minutes each day, on June 18 and 19.

Mr. HASTERT, for 5 minutes each day, on June 18, 19, and 20.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes each day, today and on June 18.

Mr. ROTH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MONTGOMERY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Ms. RIVERS.

Mr. FILNER.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHIFF) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. CAMP in two instances.

Mr. PAXON.

Mr. TALENT.

Mr. SHUSTER.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 18, 1996, at 12:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3612. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of quarantined Areas [APHIS Docket No. 91-155-19] received June 14, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3613. A letter from the Comptroller General, the General Accounting Office, transmitting a review of the President's sixth special impoundment message for fiscal year 1996, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685 (H.Doc. No. 104-233); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3614. A letter from the Directors of Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a joint report on the technical assumptions to be used in preparing estimates of National Defense Function (050) outlays for fiscal year 1997, pursuant to Public Law 101-189, section 5(a) (103 Stat. 1364); to the Committee on National Security.

3615. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to Regulation X, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act: Withdrawal of Employer-Employee and Computer Loan Origination Systems (CLOs) Exemptions (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner) [Docket No. FR-3638-F-06] (RIN: 2502-AG26) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

3616. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2002 resulting from passage of H.R. 3136 and H.R. 1266, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

3617. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Personal Protection Equipment in Shipyards—Correction Notice (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) [Docket No. S-045] (RIN: 1218-AA74) (AB06) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

3618. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Personal Protective Equipment in Shipyards (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) [Docket No. S-045] (RIN: 1218-AA74) (AB06) received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

3619. A letter from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting the 1995 annual report of operations for the

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Symphony Orchestra, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 761(c); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

3620. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Regulation of International Accounting Rates [CC Docket No. 90-337, Phase II] received June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3621. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Subsidiary Accounting Requirements Concerning Video Dialtone Costs and Revenues for Local Exchange Carriers Offering Video Dialtone Services [AAD No. 95-59] (FCC No. 96-240) received June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3622. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Tillamook, Oregon) [MM Docket No. 95-153] received June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3623. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Wellsville, New York) [MM Docket No. 95-162] received June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3624. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Garberville and Hydesville, California) [MM Docket No. 94-61] received June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3625. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act ("Appliance Labeling Rule") (16 CFR Part 305) received June 14, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3626. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Revocation of Obsolete Regulations (21 CFR Parts 200, 250, and 310) [Docket No. 95N-0310] received June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3627. A letter from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting the Authority's report entitled "Final Report on the District of Columbia FY 1997 Budget and Financial Plan," adopted by the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority on June 13, 1996, pursuant to Public Law 104-8, section 202(c)(6) (109 Stat. 113); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

3628. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Double-Sided Copying (RIN: 9000-AG41) received June 7, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

3629. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting