

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freedom of Travel

MANY THANKS FOR WILLIAM D. PATTERSON's editorial "No Dollar Wall" [SR, June 11]. I contacted the Department of the Treasury and was informed that, even though the net deficit on tourist account is estimated at around \$2 billion for this year, there is no plan to resort to a head tax or anything of that nature on tourists. Rather, efforts are being made to stimulate travel in the United States by making domestic tourist attractions as accessible and appealing as possible.

I believe the right to travel is a right which is basic in our constitutional system, and should not be placed in a position where it can be easily restricted or abrogated. Our Constitution was based on the belief that the free interchange of ideas, peoples, and cultures is essential to the preservation of a democratic society. I will do all that I can to see that that interchange is not jeopardized.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY,
U.S. Senate.

Washington, D.C.

I HEARTILY AGREE with Mr. Patterson that our national interests can be served by promoting travel between this country and others around the world. There certainly can be no better way of ensuring international understanding than by encouraging the citizens of other nations to visit us and also enabling our own citizens to travel abroad with as little restraint as possible.

SARGENT SHRIVER,
Director,
Office of Economic Opportunity.

Washington, D.C.

And Go Now to Innisfree

I HAVEN'T WRITTEN a fan letter since I was—well, never mind. But I can't help telling you that the article "Irish Interlude" by Raja Rao in *BOOKED FOR TRAVEL* June 25 is one of the most charming travel pieces you've ever published, chiefly because it's so much more than a travel piece. Perhaps it takes an Indian to appreciate Ireland. Although I've traveled much and many goodly states and kingdoms seen, I've never visited Ireland. Raja Rao's highly poetic (yet highly sensible) lines have made me determine that my next trip abroad will take me to Dublin, if not to Innisfree.

LOUIS UNTERMEYER
Newtown, Conn.

Preserving Our Heritage

ALFRED BALK's editorial of June 25, "Our Embattled Landmarks," was of great interest to us in Dallas who are trying to preserve the site of the assassination of President Kennedy. Your term "embattled" describes the situation accurately. The city is planning a park several blocks from the scene of the tragedy. It is silently understood that it, instead of the actual location, will serve as the memorial.

SR/July 16, 1966



"I'll bet you'd just love to find a military solution to me, too."

Thousands upon thousands come to this site in a constant stream. They have signed petitions to our government asking that the site itself be preserved. The Texas School Book Depository was forced to put up a "No Trespassing" sign, as visitors felt it already belonged to them, the public. They are deeply disappointed not to find the site marked, even to the extent of finding President Kennedy's name anywhere. Speak up, Americans, before the site of this historic tragedy is lost to you and to your posterity.

MARTINA LANGLEY,
Chairman,
Committee for Kennedy
Assassination Site Memorial.

Dallas, Tex.

QUITE UNLIKE any previous or older civilizations we are in a peculiar trigger-snappy stage of development. An itchy mania obsesses us to bulldoze whatsoever stands in the shadow of "progress," be it artifact, tree, or site.

It is not necessary to become obsessed with a profusion of the past. A representative choice of the best is sufficient.

STEPHEN SOWINSKI.

Chicago, Ill.

IT IS CURIOUS to find Alfred Balk regarding the razing of Mount Vernon and Williamsburg as "unthinkable to most Americans." The preservation of Mount Vernon was accomplished in the nineteenth century only after a long struggle by a group of determined ladies. Williamsburg is [in large part] a reconstruction.

Preservation should mean more than saving single buildings. Sometimes the single building is not particularly historic, but in conjunction with other buildings it takes on meaning. Cities traditionally do little to preserve neighborhoods. The fascinating Charleston, South Carolina, is a glorious exception. Beacon Hill, of course, is not about to be plowed under. It is distracting to see most of the smaller places modernizing all their charm away, turning into nondescript conglomerations.

JOHN NEUFELD.

East Lansing, Mich.

The Negro Mood

IN HIS COLUMN entitled "Theater of Resentment" [SR, June 25], Henry Hewes indicates a comprehension of the new Negro mood which, strangely, eludes most other American critics. These critics still are moaning about "protest" long after most intelligent Negroes have relegated the word and the notion to oblivion. But then, where racial matters are concerned in this country, it is traditional that the white people begin to "understand" one point only after Negroes no longer feel the point very important.

Mr. Hewes is so right: "... the terrible conditions upon which subjective enjoyment of this sort of play depends continue only because of the willingness we have to accept racial injustice."

HOYT W. FULLER,
Managing Editor,
Negro Digest.

Chicago, Ill.