

# You can help stop tax on passes

Two pieces of legislation before Congress would make the taxation of fringe benefits — such as airline passes — illegal, and permanently resolve a dispute between the Internal Revenue Service and Congress of whether such benefits can be taxed.

Congress has consistently passed legislation that forbid such taxation during the past decade. Now two bills have been filed that would permanently ban taxation of such fringe benefits.

"This legislation is very vital to airline employees," Joe Wilson, vice president-employee relations, said. "Despite the repeated messages from Congress that it did not want fringe benefits taxed, the IRS has constantly taken the position that they should be taxed. It's important that this disagreement be resolved permanently."

If either piece of legislation Congress is now considering becomes law, that will be achieved.

These bills pending before Congress are S. 1817 in the Senate, and H.R. 3525 in the House of Repre-

sentatives. S. 1817 was jointly introduced by Senators Steven D. Symms of Idaho, Daniel Moynihan of New York, and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii.

The Senate bill fully supports the position of the airline industry and would protect pass privileges for employees, their families, and parents of employees.

H.R. 3525 was introduced jointly in the House by Congressmen Barber Conable of New York and Fortney Stark of California. This bill differs from the Senate version in that interline passes and passes issued to parents of employees would be taxable. However, both sponsors have indicated to the industry that amendments eliminating those portions would be acceptable.

What can you do?

In the past, letters directed to Congressmen and Senators from airline employees have convinced them that such taxation is unacceptable. You need to write them again, and let them know once more that you want them to support these bills.

If you have written them in past years, you still need to write them once more. Both Senators from your home state and the Congressman from your district should receive letters from you asking that they co-sponsor these bills and, at the very least, vote in favor of them.

Piedmont will soon have information at every work location to help you with this task. Each work location will be encouraged to set up a committee to help employees identify their Congressmen and Senators and help employees send the precise message necessary to win their vote.

Similar programs are underway at virtually every other airline in the nation.

If you already know the names and addresses of your Senators and Congressmen, you may want to get a quick start. Here are some guidelines for what you want to communicate to them, and what you shouldn't say.

First, ask for their support. Specifically say you are writing asking for them to co-sponsor and vote for

either S. 1817 (in the case of Senators) or H. 3525 for your Congressman. When writing your Congressman, ask that the Congressman also supports H. 3525 amendments that would *permit interline passes and passes for parents to be included in the fringe benefits NOT subject to taxation.* That language, by the way, is very important, even if a little confusing.

You should point out that such benefits have never been subject to taxation and that institution of such a tax would greatly change past policies for taxation as outlined by Congress.

The tone of your letter should be positive, and point out that you are bringing an important issue to the Congressman's attention with the hope that the Congressman will be supportive.

You should not write in a negative, insulting, or threatening tone. And the shorter and simpler your message, the better.



## interlining

### Miami

Miami Springs Villas and Kings Inn, 5-minute drive from MIA, has special rates for airline employees and groups. Championship golf course adjoins hotel as well as tennis and handball courts and pool. Call 305/871-6000 for details.

### Chicago

Hyatt Regency at O'Hare offers special \$39 per room per night, single or double occupancy, plus tax. Subject to availability. For reservations, call 800/228-9000.

### Colorado

The Snowmass Club, located 10 miles from Aspen in Snowmass Village, is offering a special room rate of \$38 per person per day/double occupancy, plus tax. Lift tickets, \$16/day. Special rate available Thanksgiving-December 17, January 2-4, March 24-April 15. Reservations: 800/525-0710.

### Barbados

50% discount at Sandy Beach, 7 miles from airport, through December 17. \$40/day for 1-bedroom suite, \$57.50/day for 2-bedroom suite, subject to space availability. \$7.50 daily for 3rd or 5th person sharing a suite. Price includes watersports, unlimited use of the Universal Health Club, Tuesday night rum punch party. No charge for snorkeling equipment and cruises, windsurfers, sun-fish, paddleboats, air mattresses, or scuba diving lessons. Reservations: 800/225-2230 (Massachusetts, 800/982-4770) or write Knightsbridge Marketing Services, Inc., 1661 Worcester Road, Farmington, MA 01701.

### St. Thomas

Virgin Isle Hotel offers employees, families, parents, and retirees special rates of \$14/person (4 to a room), \$16/person (triple), and \$20/person (double) through December 17. Call International Travel Representatives, 212/840-2115, for details.

### Korea

8-day tour for \$750/person. Includes round-trip transportation from either east or west coast to Seoul, accommodations, inter-Korean flights, continental breakfast and dinner daily, transfers, local guides and entrance fees. For more information: Inflight Tours, Inc., 501 5th Ave., New York, NY 10017, 212/695-6650. (Also available, 12-day Orient tour for \$1460/person.)

### Austria

7-day group tours departing October 8, October 15, and October 22 for \$610/person. Includes positive air space, accommodations, guides, breakfast daily, most dinners. Parents and retirees eligible. Contact World Wide Interline tours, P.O. Box 87326, College Park, GA 30337, 404/763-9391.

### Ireland

7-day group tours departing November 3 and November 10 for \$675/person. World-Wide Interline Tours (see Austria trip).

### Japan

10-day land and air from \$682/person. Departures from Chicago or Seattle September 12, November 21, December 5, January 23, February 20, March 19. Positive space, Y-class, Japan Air Lines. Employees, families, parents of employees, and retirees eligible. For details: Trailblazer Safaris, P.O. Box 660066, Miami Springs, FL 33266-0066, 305/594-0810. Many other tours available.

## Henson

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initially a general aviation service organization.

In the early 1960s, Henson began operating Henson Airlines, one of the first and one of the largest commuter lines in the nation.

Today Henson provides service to 13 destinations: Pittsburgh Shenandoah Valley, Charlottesville, Richmond, Newport News, Ocean City, Salisbury (its home base), Philadelphia, New York/JFK, New York/LGA, BWI, Hagerstown, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C.'s National Airport.

Henson has 400 employees and operates a fleet of six 50-passenger deHavilland Dash-7 turboprops; six 15-passenger Beechcraft 99 turboprops; and four 30-passenger Shorts 330 turboprops. In addition, the airline has on order eight 36-passenger deHavilland Dash-8 airplanes for delivery in 1985 and 1986. When Henson takes delivery

of these new airplanes, the airline will become one of the largest operators of DeHavilland equipment in the world.

"I believe the acquisition of Henson Aviation by Piedmont will ultimately assure the best stewardship of the responsibilities and traditions associated with our airline," said Dick Henson at the time the agreement was signed.

"Just as any other 'parent' would feel, I feel a strong sense of responsibility to the employees who have brought great respect to this Company, and to the communities that have supported Henson Aviation," he said.

Henson Aviation has three divisions: a fixed-base operation in Hagerstown, a fixed-base operation at BWI, and Henson Airlines.



### Paris/Geneva/French Provinces

Departures every Sunday for 9-day tour. \$599/person through October 9, \$549/person from October 16-November 6. Includes air transportation, accommodations, breakfast daily. Employees, families, parents of employees at supplemental rate, and retirees at supplemental rate are eligible. Caesar Hotels, 7730 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105. Many other tours available.

### Cruises

For airline employees only, 1-week party cruises from \$549/person, positive space. S/S Norway sails September 17 and December 10 for Nassau, St. Thomas, Out Island. M/S Skyward sails September 4 and December for Cancun, Cozumel, Key West, Out Island. M/S Southward departs September 18 and 25 for Puerto Plata, St. Thomas, San Juan, Nassau. M/S Starward sails September 10 and December 10 for Bahama Out Island, Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman, Cozumel. Employees, families, parents, retirees, and friends sharing same cabin eligible. Contact: Interline Representatives Ltd., 25 West 39th St., New York, NY 10018, 212/840-6727.

### Chess Tournament

Delta Air Lines and Varig Brazilian Airlines are cosponsoring the 6th annual International Interline Chess Tournament November 20-26 at the Sheraton Plaza La Reina Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. Each airline may enter a team of four players. Cost per participant and/or accompanying family member is \$390/single and \$290/double. Includes accommodations for 6 nights, breakfast daily, reception, Mexican fiesta dinner, banquet, half-day tours to local attractions, 1-day trip to Knotts Berry Farm, services, gratuities. Write Carlos Augstroze, director, interline and agency sales, Latin America, Delta Airlines, 201 Alhambra Circle, Suite 516, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

### Road Race

Annual World Airline Road Race, WARR '83, will be held October 14-16 in Orlando. Open to all airline employees, their families and friends. Features individual, age and team awards. For details and applications, write: World Airline Road Race, P.O. Box 45003, Atlanta, GA 30320.



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