

Exports of United States merchandise rose to a record \$34 billion in 1968, \$3 billion more than in 1967. Imports of foreign products into the United States, attracted by vigorous domestic economic activity and rising consumer income, reached almost \$33 billion, an increase of \$6 billion.

Since imports advanced much faster than exports, our trade surplus dropped \$3 billion to a total of less than \$1 billion. One lesson in this decline is especially important: We must intensify our efforts to contain inflationary pressures at home, helping make our exports more competitive; as our exports expand, we will restore a healthy trade surplus.

Additional outlets are needed for the diversity and abundance of our industrial and agricultural production. We also must find ways to help less developed countries participate more fully in world trade.

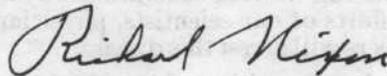
Enlarged markets for our goods and services speed the pace of our economic progress and advance the well-being of all our people. New markets abroad create new jobs at home; new avenues of world trade run parallel to new roads to world peace.

Government in the past has helped American industry and agriculture to open up new markets abroad; today we are more willing and better prepared to help than ever before.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 18, 1969, as World Trade Week; and I request the appropriate Federal, State, and local officials to cooperate in the observance of that week.

I urge business, labor, agricultural, educational, professional, and civic groups, as well as the people of the United States generally, to observe World Trade Week with gatherings, discussions, exhibits, ceremonies, and other appropriate activities designed to promote continuing awareness of the importance of world trade to our economy and our relations with other nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3902

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY, 1969

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The American Merchant Marine must project the Nation's economic strength throughout the world in peacetime and give mobility to our national defense in times of emergency. Its vessels must enable us to compete effectively in international trade and to transport and supply our Armed Forces in defense of freedom.

Through the cooperation of business, labor, and Government, and with prudent use of advancing technology, the American Merchant Marine must become capable of providing modern, productive service to the Nation's commerce as an integral part of transportation.

March 18, 1969

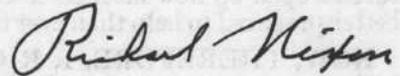
A strong and profitable merchant fleet is vital to America's economic welfare and defense capability. The American flag on merchant vessels on the high seas and in foreign ports is a symbol of our Nation's dedication to peaceful trade throughout the world.

To remind Americans of the important role the Merchant Marine plays in our national life, the Congress in 1933 designated the anniversary of the first transatlantic voyage by a steamship, the SS *Savannah*, on May 22, 1819, as National Maritime Day, and requested the President to issue a proclamation annually in observance of that day.

48 Stat. 73.
36 USC 145.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby urge the people of the United States to honor our American Merchant Marine on May 22, 1969, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day in tribute to the American Merchant Marine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3903

CANCER CONTROL MONTH, 1969

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Cancer is the second greatest cause of death in the United States. And the death rate from this terrible disease is still rising.

In the past 25 years we have made progress in early diagnosis of certain types of cancer. Greater drug treatment has increased a victim's chances of survival.

While these medical advances are encouraging, it is evident that only the full-hearted commitment by all Americans to support the splendid efforts of our scientists, physicians, health administrators and volunteers will arrest this disease.

In recognition of the urgency of the cancer problem, the Congress, by a joint resolution of March 28, 1938 (52 Stat. 148), requested the President to issue annually a proclamation setting aside the month of April as Cancer Control Month.

36 USC 150.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of April 1969 as Cancer Control Month, and I invite the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and appropriate officials of all other areas under the United States flag to issue similar proclamations.

I also ask the medical and allied health professions, the communications industries, and all other interested persons and groups to unite during the appointed month in public reaffirmation of this Nation's efforts to control cancer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred