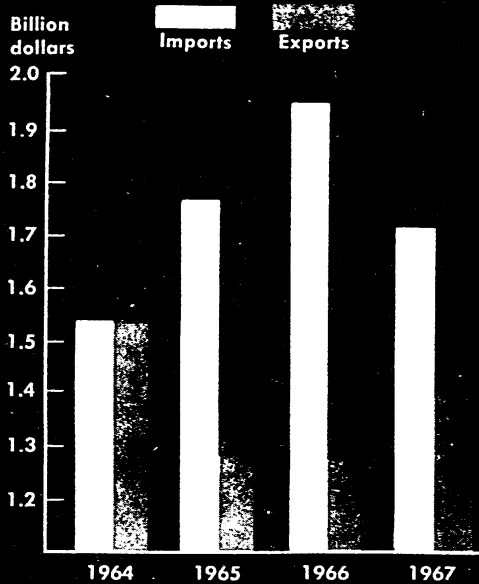


Imports drop to \$1.7-billion as exports inch forward



strike deadline, steel inventories will have to be cut back. But by then auto production and inventories will be back to normal.

Consumer expenditures for goods and services, accounting for nearly 2/3 of all final spending in the economy, will rise \$33.5-billion or 6.7% this year. Even with the anticipated tax hike, consumers will be able to buy more durable goods than ever before. Part of the rise will be due to some postponement of auto purchases from late 1967 because of the prolonged strike. Also, a higher number of housing completions this year will result in additional demand for appliances, furniture, and a host of other items. And prices of consumer durables will be up more this year than in any year in the past decade.

Soft goods and service expenditures will rise also. Part of the stimulation will come from increased benefits to senior citizens. Under the new Social Security bill, additional benefits will more than offset the additional payroll taxes. And rising personal income will benefit about \$4-billion from the increase in minimum wages beginning February 1, 1968.

Disposable personal income—the amount left over after taxes and certain other fees—will advance more than 6% to \$577.8-billion. Also, the personal savings rate, which averaged a very high 6.9% last year, will drop to a more normal 6.2% in 1968. A one percentage point decline in the savings rate would cause a \$5-billion increase in consumer expenditures. This would mean at least a \$3.5-billion increase this year.

	IMPORTS					EXPORTS				
	—Million dollars—					—Million dollars—				
	1964	1965	1966	1967	Percent change 1966-67	1964	1965	1966	1967	Percent change (1966-67)
TOTAL	1,539.7	1,777.5	1,952.3	1,714.7	-12.2	1,536.6	1,288.2	1,283.7	1,384.2	+ 7.8
Textile fibers & waste	407.4	435.7	436.3	284.9	-34.7	818.5	617.3	565.6	687.8	+21.6
Raw cotton excluding linters .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	681.8	486.2	432.2	565.3	+30.8
Other .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	136.7	131.1	133.4	128.7	- 3.5
Wool, unmanufactured	201.7	218.3	218.3	112.6	-48.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Other	205.7	217.4	218.0	172.2	-22.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
articles	681.2	798.7	908.5	793.1	-12.7	577.5	527.8	554.1	530.3	- 4.3
Cotton cloth	91.6	122.7	144.2	109.6	-24.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Textile yarn & thread .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	153.2	131.0	128.3	110.3	-14.0
Cotton cloth including duck .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	109.2	97.6	109.5	95.5	-12.8
Textile fabrics, woven, except cotton	348.6	422.8	448.9	385.6	-14.1	139.8	135.0	137.3	140.3	+ 2.2
Jute, burlap, worsted & woolen fabrics	235.8	273.4	294.3	264.8	-10.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Other	112.8	149.4	154.6	120.8	-21.9	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Man-made broadwoven fabrics .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	93.6	61.9	67.2	100.7	+49.8
Made-up articles .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	43.7	51.9	54.2	53.9	- 0.6
Twine & cordage	55.6	48.1	45.3	40.4	-10.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Floor coverings & tapestries	54.4	54.3	61.6	52.5	-14.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Other	131.0	150.8	208.5	205.0	- 1.7	38.0	50.4	57.6	30.5	-47.0
Clothing	451.2	543.1	607.5	636.7	+ 4.8	140.6	143.1	164.0	166.1	+ 1.3
Cotton .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Wool .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Other .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	...