be necessary in the months ahead on the appropriate fiscal and monetary policies for the period beginning July 1, 1969, and on the desirability of extending the income tax surcharge.

Our overall performance in 1968 with regard to wage-price restraint has not been at all satisfactory. Some settlements were clearly excessive. The Cabinet Committee on Price Stability, after extended study and consultation with business and labor leaders, including particularly the President's Labor Management Advisory Committee, is submitting recommendations for a more lasting and effective effort on the wage-price front.

C. Making United States Industry more Export Minded Through Selective Export Expansion Programs

Our objective has been to encourage the nation's producers to export more. We have employed active and direct measures to supplement our efforts to achieve a soundly managed economy and an open trading community. To this end, the United States Government is involved in making American industry more export minded through a number of export expansion programs.

In 1968, we established and activated the following programs:

—The $500 million Export Expansion Facility was created within the Export-Import Bank to expand and improve export financing, guarantee and insurance facilities available to American exporters. This facility, enacted into law in early July, through November had already helped to finance over $90 million of American exports.

—The Export-Import Bank announced a liberalized discount system on April 1 that has been well received in the financial community. In the period between April 1 and November 30, 1968, export credits totalling $184 million were financed through this facility. This compares to a total activity of $270 million from the program's inception in September 1966 to March 30, 1968.

The Commerce Department has launched the five-year, $200 million comprehensive export program announced by the President in January. Although budgetary limitations have been present, Commerce has achieved the following results:

—The first Joint Export Association contracts are in the final stages of negotiations and will be signed early in January 1969. Under these contracts the Department of Commerce will provide financial assistance to groups of American firms in developing overseas markets.

—The Department of Commerce has expanded its overseas commercial exhibition program and related activities in the United States to make American business more export minded.