



President Madison's War Message, Edited/Annotated Version

All of the language in the document below is from the original. However, the following edits have been made to allow for the document to be read aloud smoothly:

- Some spelling and punctuation has been standardized to avoid confusion.
- Words in italics are defined in the parentheses that follow. The words in parentheses can generally be substituted for the italicized words, when desired.
- Ellipses represent gaps in the text.

War Message to Congress, June 1, 1812

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain.

Without going back beyond the renewal in 1803 of the war in which Great Britain is engaged, and omitting unrepaired wrongs of inferior magnitude, the conduct of her Government presents a series of acts hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation.

British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it.... British jurisdiction is thus extended to neutral vessels in a situation where no laws can operate but the law of nations and the laws of the country to which the vessels belong....

...under the pretext of searching for *these* (British subjects), thousands of American citizens, under the safeguard of public law and of their national flag, have been torn from their country and from everything dear to them; have been dragged on board ships of war of a foreign nation ...to risk their lives in the battles of their oppressors....

British cruisers have been in the practice also of violating the rights and the peace of our coasts. They hover over and harass our entering and departing commerce...and have wantonly spilt American blood....

...our commerce has been plundered in every sea, the great staples of our country have been cut off from their legitimate markets, and a destructive blow aimed at our agricultural and maritime interests....

...Great Britain...formally *avowed* (declared) a determination to persist in *them* (insults to American maritime rights) against the United States until the markets of *her enemy* (Britain's enemy, France) should be laid open to British products, thus asserting an obligation on a *neutral power* (the U.S.) to require one *belligerent* (combatant in a war) to encourage by its internal regulations the trade of another belligerent

In reviewing the conduct of Great Britain toward the United States our attention is necessarily drawn to the warfare just renewed by the *savages* (Native Americans) on one of our extensive frontiers — a warfare which is known to spare neither age nor sex and to be distinguished by features peculiarly shocking to humanity. It is difficult to account for...their hostility...without recollecting the authenticated examples of *such interpositions* (British intrigues with the Indians)....

We behold, in fine, on the side of Great Britain, a state of war against the United States, and on the side of the United States a state of peace toward Great Britain.

Whether the United States shall continue *passive* (not to take any action)...or, opposing force to force in defense of their national rights, shall commit a just cause into the hands of the Almighty Disposer of Events...is a solemn question which the Constitution wisely confides to the legislative department of the Government. In recommending it to their early deliberations I am happy in the assurance that the decision will be worthy the enlightened and patriotic councils of a virtuous, a free, and a powerful nation.

...the communications last made to Congress on the subject of our relations with France will have shown that since the revocation of her decrees, as they violated the neutral rights of the United States, her Government has authorized illegal captures by its privateers and public ships, and that other outrages have been practiced on our vessels and our citizens.... I *abstain* (refrain) at this time from recommending to the consideration of Congress definitive measures with respect to *that nation* (France), in the expectation that the result of ...discussions between our minister...at Paris and the French Government will speedily enable Congress to decide with greater advantage on the course due to the rights, the interests, and the honor of our country.



President Madison's War Message, Full-Text Version

The complete text of President Madison's War Message is available online on the EDSITEment resource **American Memory** at [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj008201\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj008201))).

Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1811-1813 MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1812.

A confidential message, in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Coles, his Secretary; which he delivered in at the Speaker's table.

The House was then cleared of all persons, except the Members, Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Doorkeeper, and the doors were closed; and the said message was read, and is as follows:

CONFIDENTIAL.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them, on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain.

Without going back beyond the renewal, in one thousand eight hundred and three, of the war in which Great Britain is engaged, and **omitting unrepaired wrongs of inferior magnitude**, the conduct of her Government presents a series of acts, hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation.

British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great high-way of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it; not in the exercise of a belligerent right, founded on the law of nations against an enemy, but a municipal prerogative over British subjects. British jurisdiction is thus extended to neutral vessels, in a situation where no laws can operate but the law of nations, and the laws of the country to which the vessels belong; and a self-redress is assumed, which, if British subjects were wrongfully detained and alone concerned, is that substitution of force, for a resort to the responsible sovereign, which falls within the definition of war. Could the seizure of British subjects, in such Cases, be regarded as within the exercise of a belligerent right, the acknowledged laws of war, which forbid an article of captured property to be adjudged, without a regular investigation before a competent tribunal, would imperiously demand the fairest trial, where the sacred rights of persons were at issue. In place of such a trial, these rights are subjected to the will of every petty commander.

The practice, hence, is so far from affecting British subjects alone, that, under the pretext of searching for these, thousands of American citizens, under the safeguard of public law, and of their national flag, have been torn from their country, and from everything dear to them; have been dragged on board ships of war of a foreign nation, and exposed, under the severities of their discipline, to be exiled to the most distant and deadly climes, to risk their lives in the battles of their oppressors, and to be the melancholy instruments of taking away those of taking away those of their own brethren.

Against this crying enormity, which Great Britain would be so prompt to avenge if committed against herself, the United States have in vain exhausted remonstrances and expostulations; and that no proof might be wanting of their conciliatory dispositions, and no pretext left for a continuance of the practice, the British Government was formally assured of the readiness of the United States to enter into arrangements, such as could not be rejected, if the recovery of British subjects were the real and the sole object. The communication passed without effect.

British cruisers have been in the practice also of violating the rights and the peace of our coasts. They hover over and harass our entering and departing commerce. To the most insulting pretensions they have added the most lawless proceedings in our very harbors; and have wantonly spilt American blood within the sanctuary of our territorial jurisdiction. The principles and rules enforced by that nation, when a neutral nation, against armed vessels of belligerents hovering near her coasts and disturbing her commerce, are well known. When called on, nevertheless, by the United States, to punish the greater offences committed by her own vessels, her Government has bestowed on their commanders additional marks of honor and confidence.

Under pretended blockades, without the presence of an adequate force, and sometimes without the practicability of applying one, our commerce has been plundered in every sea; the great staples of our country have been cut off from their legitimate markets; and a destructive blow aimed at our agricultural and maritime interests. In aggravation of these predatory measures, they have been considered as in force from the dates of their notification; a retrospective effect being thus added, as has been done in other important cases, to the unlawfulness of the course pursued. And to render the outrage the more signal, these mock blockades have been reiterated and enforced in the face of official communications from the British Government, declaring, as the true definition of a legal blockade, "that particular ports must be actually invested, and previous warning given to vessels bound to them, not to enter."

Not content with these occasional expedients for laying waste our neutral trade, the Cabinet of Britain resorted, at length, to the sweeping system of blockades, under the name of Orders in Council; which has been moulded and managed, as might best suit its political views, its commercial jealousies, or the avidity of British cruisers.

To our remonstrances against the complicated and transcendent injustice of this innovation, the first reply was, that the orders were reluctantly adopted by Great Britain, as a necessary retaliation on decrees of her enemy, proclaiming a general blockade of the British Isles, at a time when the naval force of that enemy dared not issue from his own ports. She was reminded, without effect, that her own prior blockades, unsupported by an adequate naval force actually applied and continued, were a bar to this plea: that executed edicts against millions of our

property could not be retaliation on edicts confessedly impossible to be executed: that retaliation, to be just, should fall on the party setting the guilty example, not on an innocent party, which was not even chargeable with an acquiescence in it.

When deprived of this flimsy veil for a prohibition of our trade with her enemy, by the repeal of his prohibition of our trade with Great Britain, her Cabinet, instead of a corresponding repeal, or a practical discontinuance of its orders, formally avowed a determination to persist in them against the United States, until the markets of her enemy should be laid open to British products; thus asserting an obligation on a neutral Power to require one belligerent; contradicting her own practice towards all nations, in peace as well as in war; and betraying the insincerity of those professions which inculcated a belief, that, having resorted to her orders with regret, she was anxious to find an occasion for putting an end to them.

Abandoning still more all respect for the neutral rights of the United States, and for its own consistency, the British Government now demands, as pre-requisites to a repeal of its orders as they relate to the United States, that a formality should be observed in the repeal of the French decrees, no wise necessary to their termination, nor exemplified by British usage; and that the French repeal, besides including that portion of the decrees which operate within a territorial jurisdiction, as well as that which operates on the high seas, against the commerce of the United States, should not be a single and special repeal in relation to the United States, but should be extended to whatever other neutral nations, unconnected with them, may be affected by those decrees. And, as an additional insult, they are called on for a formal disavowal of conditions and pretensions advanced by the French Government, for which the United States are so far from having made themselves responsible, that, in official explanations which have been published to the world, and in a correspondence of the American Minister at London with the British Minister for Foreign Affairs, such a responsibility was explicitly and emphatically disclaimed.

It has become, indeed, sufficiently certain, that the commerce of the United States is to be sacrificed, not as interfering with the belligerent rights of Great Britain; not as supplying the wants of her enemies. which she herself supplies; but, as interfering with the monopoly which she covets for her own commerce and navigation. She carries on a war against the lawful commerce of a friend, that she may the better carry on a commerce with an enemy; a commerce polluted by the forgeries and perjuries, which are, for the most part, the only passports by which it can succeed.

Anxious to make every experiment short of the last resort of injured nations, the United States have withheld from Great Britain, under successive modifications, the benefits of a free intercourse with their market, the loss of which could not but outweigh the profits accruing from her restrictions of our commerce with other nation. And to entitle these experiments to the more favorable consideration, they were so framed as to enable her to place her adversary under the exclusive operation of them. To these appeals her Government has been equally inflexible, as if willing to make sacrifices of every sort, rather than yield to the claims of justice, or renounce the errors of a false pride. Nay, so far were the attempts carried to overcome the attachment of the British Cabinet to its unjust edicts, that it received every encouragement within the competency of the Executive branch of our Government, to expect that a repeal of them would be followed by a war between the United States and France, unless the French edicts should also be repealed.

Even this communication, although silencing forever the plea of a disposition in the United States to acquiesce in those edicts, originally the sole plea for them, received no attention.

If no other proof existed of a predetermination of the British Government against a repeal of its orders, it might be found in the correspondence of the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at London, and the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in one thousand eight hundred and ten, on the question whether the blockade of May, one thousand eight hundred and six, was considered as in force, or as not in force. It had been ascertained that the French Government, which urged this blockade as the ground of its Berlin decree, was willing, in the event of its removal, to repeal that decree; which, being followed by alternate repeals of the other offensive edicts, might abolish the whole system on both sides. Tins inviting opportunity for accomplishing an object so important to the United States, and professed, so often, to be the desire of both the belligerents, was made known to the British Government. As that Government admits that an actual application of tin adequate force is necessary to the existence of a legal blockade, and it was notorious that, if such a force had ever been applied, its long discontinuance had annulled the blockade in question, there could be no sufficient objection on the part of Great Britain to a formal revocation of it; and no imaginable objection to a declaration of the fact that the blockade did not exist. The declaration would have been consistent with her avowed principles of blockade; and would have enabled the United States to demand from France the pledged repeal of her decrees: either with success, in which case the way would have been opened for a general repeal of the belligerent edicts; or without success, in which case the United States would have been justified in turning their measures exclusively against France. The British Government would, however, neither rescind the blockade, nor declare its non-existence; nor permit its non-existence to be inferred and affirmed by the American Plenipotentiary. On the contrary, by representing the blockade to be comprehended in the Orders in Council, the United States were compelled so to regard it, in their subsequent proceedings.

There was a period when a favorable change in the policy of the British Cabinet was justly considered as established. The Minister Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty here, proposed an adjustment of the differences nitre immediately endangering the harmony of the two countries. The proposition was accepted with the promptitude and cordiality corresponding with the invariable professions of this Government. A foundation appeared to be laid for a sincere and lasting reconciliation. The prospect, however, quickly vanished. The whole proceeding was disavowed by the British Government, without any explanations, which could, at that thee, repress the belief, that the disavowal proceeded from a spirit of hostility to the commercial rights and prosperity of the United States. And it has since come into proof, that, at the very moment when the Public Minister was holding the language of friendship, and inspiring confidence in the sincerity of the negotiation with which he was charged, a secret Agent of his Government was employed in intrigues, having for their object a subversion of our Government, and a dismemberment of our happy Union.

In reviewing the conduct of Great Britain towards the United States, our attention is necessarily drawn to the warfare, just renewed by the savages, on one of our extensive frontiers; a warfare which is known to spare neither age nor sex, and to be distinguished by features peculiarly shocking to humanity. It is difficult to account for the activity and combinations which have for some time been developing themselves among tribes in constant intercourse with British traders

and garrisons, without connecting their hostility with that influence, and without recollecting the authenticated examples of such interpositions, heretofore furnished by the officers and agents of that Government.

Such is the spectacle of injuries and indignities which have been heaped on our country; and such the crisis which its unexampled forbearance and conciliatory efforts have not been able to avert. It might at least have been expected, that an enlightened nation, if less urged by moral obligations, or invited by friendly dispositions on the part of the United States, would have found, in its true interest alone, a sufficient motive to respect their rights and their tranquility on the high seas; that an enlarged policy would have favored that free and general circulation of commerce in which the British nation is at all times interested, and which, in times of war, is the best alleviation of its calamities to herself, as well as to other belligerents; and, more especially, that the British Cabinet would not, for the sake of a precarious and surreptitious intercourse with hostile markets, have persevered in a course of measures which necessarily put at hazard the invaluable market of a great and growing country, disposed to cultivate the mutual advantages of an active commerce.

Other councils have prevailed. Our moderation and conciliation have had no other effect than to encourage perseverance and to enlarge pretensions. We behold our sea-faring citizens still the daily victims of lawless violence, committed on the great common and highway of nations, even within sight of the country which owes them protection. We behold our vessels, freighted with the products of our soil and industry, or returning with the honest proceeds of them, wrested from their lawful destinations, confiscated by prize courts, no longer the organs of public law, but the instruments of arbitrary edicts, and their unfortunate crews dispersed and lost, or forced or inveigled in British ports into British fleets, whilst arguments are employed in support of these aggressions, which have no foundation but in a principle equally supporting a claim to regulate our external commerce in all cases whatsoever.

We behold, in fine, on the side of Great Britain, a state of war against the United States; and on the side of the United States, a state of peace towards Great Britain.

Whether the United States shall continue passive under these progressive usurpations, and these accumulating **wrongs**, or, opposing force to force in defence of their national rights, shall commit a just cause into the hands of the Almighty Disposer of events, avoiding all connexions which might entangle it in the contest or views of other Powers, and preserving a constant readiness to concur in an honorable re-establishment of peace and friendship, is a solemn question, which the Constitution wisely confides to the Legislative Department of the Government. In recommending it to their early deliberations, I am happy in the assurance, that the decision will be worthy the enlightened and patriotic councils of a virtuous, a free, and a powerful nation.

Having presented this view of the relations of the United States with Great Britain, and of the solemn alternative growing out of them, I proceed to remark, that the communications last made to Congress on the subject of our relations with France, will have shown, that, since the revocation of her decrees, as they violated the neutral rights of the United States, her Government has authorized illegal captures by its privateers and public ships; and that other

outrages have been practised on our vessels and our citizens. It will have been seen, also, that no indemnity had been provided, or satisfactorily pledged, for the extensive spoliations committed under the violent and retrospective orders of the French Government against the property of our citizens, seized within the jurisdiction of France. I abstain, at this time, from recommending to the consideration of Congress definitive measures with respect to that nation, in the expectation that the result of unclosed discussions between our Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris and the French Government will speedily enable Congress to decide, with greater advantage, on the course due to the rights, the interests, and the honor, of our country.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, June 1, 1812.



President Jefferson's Third State of the Union, 1803

The complete text of President Jefferson's Third State of the Union Address is available online on the EDSITEment resource **American Memory** at [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(sj003392\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(sj003392))).

Washington, D.C., October 17, 1803

We have seen with sincere concern the flames of war lighted up again in Europe, and nations, with which we have the most friendly and useful relations, engaged in mutual destruction. While we regret the miseries in which we see others involved, let us bow with gratitude to that kind Providence, which, inspiring with wisdom and moderation our late legislative councils, while placed under the urgency of the greatest wrongs, guarded us from hastily entering into the sanguinary contest, and left us only to look on and to pity its ravages. These will be heaviest on those immediately engaged. Yet the nations pursuing peace will not be exempt from all evil. In the course of this conflict let it be our endeavor, as it is our interest and desire, to cultivate the friendship of the belligerent nations by every act of justice, and of innocent kindness; to receive their armed vessels with hospitality from the distresses of the sea, but to administer the means of annoyance to none; to establish in our harbors such a police as may maintain law and order; to restrain our citizens from embarking individually in a war in which their country takes no part; to punish severely those persons, citizen or alien, who shall usurp the cover of our flag for vessels not entitled to it, infecting there by with suspicion those of real Americans, and committing us into controversies for the redress of wrongs not our own; to exact from every nation the observance, towards our vessels and citizens, of those principles and practices which all civilized people acknowledge; to merit the character of a just nation, and maintain that of an independent one, preferring every consequence to insult and habitual wrong. Congress will consider whether the existing laws enable us efficaciously to maintain this course with our citizens in all places, and with others while within the limits of our jurisdiction; and will give them the new modifications necessary for these objects.



Edited/Annotated Documents about John Henry

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A letter from a British citizen to John Henry, dated January 26, 1809, but reported by President Madison in March 1812:

My Dear Sir: The extraordinary state of things at this time...has suggested to the Governor...the idea of employing you on a secret and confidential mission to Boston....

(Full text available online on the EDSITEMent resource **American Memory** at <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=023/llac023.db&recNum=578>.)

A follow-up letter dated February 6, 1809:

...Endeavor to obtain the most accurate information of the true state of affairs in that part of the Union....

It has been supposed that, if the *Federalists* (political opposition to Madison's Republican Party) of the Eastern States should be successful in obtaining that influence... they will exert that influence to bring about a separation from the general union.

(Full text available online on the EDSITEMent resource **American Memory** at <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=023/llac023.db&recNum=579>.)



Report to the House of Representatives on the frigate *Chesapeake*

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November 17, 1807

Participating deeply in the *general sensibility excited* (widespread anger aroused) by the outrage committed upon the United States frigate *Chesapeake*, by the British ship of war *Leopard*, on the 22nd June...and feeling it their duty...to present to...this House...all the facts relating to that atrocious act of aggression, *they* (the House committee)...have obtained from the State and Navy Departments the documents...from which they ...make the following statement:

...the U.S. frigate *Chesapeake*...under the command of Commodore James Barron, sailed from *Hampton Roads* (Hampton Roads, Virginia) on the 22nd June...having on board a crew of more than 370 men, and completely equipped with every thing necessary for such a ship of war sailing on such a cruise.

That in proceeding to sea...she passed a British squadron. ...The British ship of war *Leopard*, of fifty guns...then at anchor within the limits of the United States...*came up with* (came alongside) the *Chesapeake*. ...Commodore Barron ordered the *Chesapeake* to be *hove to* (brought to a stop). ...An officer was accordingly sent from the *Leopard* to the *Chesapeake*, who...presented to Commodore Barron a note *respecting* (in regards to) deserters from some of His Britannic Majesty's ships, supposed to be serving as part of the crew of the *Chesapeake*, and enclosing a copy of an order...to the captain...to search his ship for the deserters.

...Commodore Barron...knew of no such men. ...The recruiting officers for the *Chesapeake* had been particularly instructed...not to *enter* (sign up) any deserters from His Britannic Majesty's ships. ...He was instructed never to permit the crew of any ship under his command to be *mustered* (inspected, could also mean to have the crew assembled) by any officers but her own.

...The *Leopard*...ranged alongside of the *Chesapeake* and commenced a heavy fire on her.

...The *Chesapeake* made no resistance whatever, but remained under...fire...from 20 to 30 minutes, when, having suffered much damage to her hull, rigging, and spars, and lost 3 men killed and 18 wounded, Commodore Barron ordered *his colors to be struck* (a surrender).

...The commander of the Leopard sent an officer on board who took possession of the Chesapeake, mustered her crew, and carrying off 4 of her men, John Strahan, William Ware, Daniel Martin, and John Wilson, ...abandoned the ship.

...Commodore Barron, ...finding that she was very much injured and had three and a half feet of water in her hold, returned...to Hampton Roads.

The committee might add to this statement that it has been incontestably proven...that William Ware, John Strahan, and Daniel Martin are citizens of the United States.

(Full text is available online on the EDSITEment resource **American Memory** at <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&fileName=003/llsp003.db&Page=6>.)



President Madison's State of the Union, 1811

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The complete text of President Madison's State of the Union Address of 1811 is available online on the EDSITEMent resource **American Memory** at [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(hj0084\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(hj0084))).

James Madison, November 5, 1811

A message, in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Coles, his Secretary, who delivered in the same, and withdrew.

The said message was then read at the Clerk's table, and is as follows:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

In calling you together sooner than a separation from your homes would otherwise have been required I yielded to considerations drawn from the posture of our foreign affairs....

At the close of the last session of Congress it was hoped that the successive *confirmations of the extinction of the French decrees* (improvements in France's attitude toward American maritime rights), so far as they violated our neutral commerce, would have *induced* (influenced) the Government of Great Britain to...authorize a removal of the existing obstructions to ...commerce with the United States.

Instead of this reasonable step toward satisfaction and friendship between the two nations, the *orders* (the restrictions on American maritime rights) were...*put into more rigorous execution* (made even more strictly enforced)....

Among the occurrences produced by the conduct of British ships of war hovering on our coasts was an encounter between one of them and the American frigate commanded by Captain Rodgers....

The justice and fairness which have been evinced on the part of the United States toward France, both before and since the revocation of her decrees, authorized an expectation that her Government would have followed up that measure.... No proof, however, is yet given of an intention to repair the other wrongs done to the United States....

...the United States have much reason to be dissatisfied with the rigorous and unexpected restrictions to which their trade with the French dominions has been subjected, and which, if not discontinued, will require...corresponding restrictions on importations from France into the United States....

Under *the ominous indications* (these threatening conditions)...it became a duty to exert the means...*in* (for) providing for the general security. The works of defense on our maritime frontier have accordingly been prosecuted...and such a *disposition* (enlargement) has been made of our land forces.... In this disposition is included a force consisting of regulars and militia, embodied in the Indiana Territory and marched toward our northwestern frontier. This measure was made requisite by several murders...committed by Indians, but more especially by the menacing preparations and aspect of a combination of them on the Wabash, under the influence and direction of a fanatic of the Shawanese tribe. With these exceptions the Indian tribes retain their peaceable dispositions toward us, and their usual pursuits....

With this evidence of hostile inflexibility in trampling on rights which no *independent* (neutral) nation can *relinquish* (give up), Congress will feel the duty of putting the United States into an *armor and an attitude* (strong defensive posture) demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations.

I recommend, accordingly, that adequate provisions be made for filling the ranks and prolonging the enlistments of the regular troops....

The receipts into the Treasury during the year ending on the 30th day of September last have exceeded \$13,500,000, and have enabled us to defray the current expenses, including the interest on the public debt, and to *reimburse* (pay back) more than \$5,000,000 of the principal without *recurring to* (resorting to) the loan authorized by the act of the last session. The temporary loan obtained in the latter end of the year 1810 has also been *reimbursed* (paid back), and is not included in that amount....

I can not close this communication without expressing my deep sense of...crisis...invoking at the same time the blessing of Heaven on our beloved country and on all the means that may be employed in vindicating its rights and advancing its welfare.

From the Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1811-1813
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1811



Repeal of the Embargo of France (and Not Great Britain)

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November 2, 1810

Whereas, by...the act of Congress, passed on the 1st day of May, 1810, entitled “An act concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France...” provided “that, in case either Great Britain or France shall, before the 3rd day of March next, ...revoke...her *edicts as* (proclamations so)...they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States....

And whereas it has been officially made known to this Government, that the edicts of France violating the neutral commerce of the United States have been so revoked as to cease to have effect on the 1st of the present month...I, James Madison, President of the United States do hereby proclaim...that...all restrictions imposed by the...act shall cease and be discontinued in relation to France....