

inflation level by October, 1978, and if not, what is his new target?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I recently read the article but I do not seem to recall those figures. I think I had better check them to see if the hon. member quoted them correctly.

**Mr. Stevens:** My question is again for the Minister of Finance who is most selective in what he recalls in this House.

● (1430)

My supplementary is again based on what Professors Jump and Wilson have stated in their article, and this time for the minister's benefit I will quote it. Professor Jump and Professor Wilson have stated that a larger cut in personal income taxes would have been more effective in directly stimulating consumer spending and in bringing into play the economy's full multiplier and accelerator forces, which in turn would lower unemployment to a greater extent than the minister's present budgetary thrust is. Would the minister indicate if he is giving any consideration to such a budgetary thrust in the near future?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I am not contemplating a budget at this time.

REASON FOR FAILURE TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE TO STUDY DOCUMENT "THE WAY AHEAD"

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** The minister has once again reiterated that he is not contemplating a new budget. Would he indicate to the House why he has not pressed for the calling of motion No. 13, which was put on the order paper under his name calling for the establishment of a joint committee of this House and the other place? That committee would be designed to review "The Way Ahead" which the minister tabled in the House. Why is the minister not pressing to set up that committee so that we can have a more thoughtful review of the economy?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, principally because of the activities of hon. members of this House in other committees it was decided not to go ahead.

**Mr. Stevens:** What about the recess?

EFFECT OF UPTURN IN DISPOSABLE INCOME AND PERSONAL CONSUMPTION—POSSIBILITY OF CUT IN SALES AND INCOME TAXES

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have one short supplementary, and perhaps a second one, if Your Honour desires it. The OECD predicts that economic recovery could accelerate in the first quarter of 1978 if there is an upturn in real disposable income and personal consumption. Does the minister agree with that finding of the OECD, and if so, how does he hope to accomplish that end?

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, one of the most important ways to have an increase in personal disposable income is to get the rate of inflation down, and it is for that reason that we have been directing our policies in that direction for the last couple of years.

**Mr. Alexander:** Another suggestion which has been made is that we should cut personal income taxes for low and middle income earners as well as cut federal sales tax, particularly as it relates to building materials. Is the minister now saying that he has thrown those suggestions out the window for the time being?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I just indicated to the hon. member's colleague that I am not going to propose further budgetary measures at this time. I think it is fair to remind the hon. member again that we did indeed reduce federal income taxes in order to increase the minimum income on which tax is paid to \$7,000 a year. Unhappily, the hon. gentleman voted against that.

**Mr. Alexander:** That is a lot of baloney.

**Mr. Stevens:** You should not mislead the House.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ALLEGATION OF BIASED NEWS REPORTING—SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF NEWS BE PROHIBITED

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I hate to interrupt the Prime Minister's discussion about external affairs, but I would like to pursue the question raised by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal. Having in mind that there is great unease in the country about the proposition contained in the CRTC report, about the way in which the Prime Minister and his friends incited the commission hearing to start with, about the report itself and about the Prime Minister's reaction to it, which seems to move very categorically and clearly toward a form of media control and management, will the Prime Minister assure the House—I see he is smiling, but this is much more serious in the mind of the Prime Minister outside this House than it is here.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baldwin:** Will the Prime Minister give a categorical assurance to the House that the terms of reference in the preamble of any form of further inquiry into this matter will clearly rule out any suggestion, discussion or recommendation about government control of the media, either broadcasting or written?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is certainly asking the question with some levity. I can see that by his smile. He knows very well that the government is as opposed to any form of censorship as he is.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!