

that kind of super stimulus which would take away from them the beautiful Christmas presents which we would want them to have.

As much as I might like to see the red tape removed and the officials who run the anti-inflation program laid off or fired, again I do not think the people of this country would thank us very much if they turned around and found that by this Christmas present, as we would like to call it, we have stimulated and rekindled inflation across this country and put people far behind. I would like to remind the hon. member that in this past year under the controls program there has been a significant increase in the real income of the average Canadian.

Mr. Stevens: How about those who are out of work?

Mr. Kaplan: The hon. member knows the statistics about the way real income has increased.

Before the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) can put forward his budget for the consideration of the House and the country, there are a number of things which ought to take place. First we ought to have some time to look at the effects on the economy of the doubling of the winter direct employment program of the government. We ought to have an opportunity to assess the impact of the decline in the external value of the Canadian dollar. That is something which has only taken place in the last few weeks, and it will have significant implications for the Canadian economy, for our

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export position, and for external pricing. This also ought to be assessed.

The first ministers have just completed a meeting of tremendous importance to the Canadian taxpayer so far as the position of the federal government is concerned because that meeting cost Canadian taxpayers more than was expected. That will affect the financial position of our government and will be one of the factors which will have to be taken into consideration. Then there will be the finance ministers' conference at the end of January, at which time there will be an examination of the positions of the provinces. Provincial ministers of finance will have the opportunity to put forward their cases, report on their regions, and indicate the kind of budget they would like to see.

I do not want us to be so moved by the eloquent pleas of the hon. member opposite, or so affected by the natural feelings Christmas evokes in all of us, that we would want to take some measures in the next few days as rash, ill-considered, and possibly in the very short run damaging to the average Canadian as those measures which the hon. member has asked us to put under the national Christmas tree.

Mr. Stevens: And let the unemployed be damned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 o'clock p.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10:29 p.m.