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*The Christmas wrap*  
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[Posted by the Editor]

Cato Institute economist Richard Rahn reminds that if "additional government spending could create more jobs ... over the long run, the socialist and semi-socialist economies would have full employment ... ." Of course, history shows that's not how economies work. It's yet another lesson that "progressives" can't seem to understand.

... Even more proof that Congress is incapable of "getting it" is the supposed "austere" discretionary spending numbers in the fiscal 2012 budget. As National Review's Andrew Stiles reminds, such spending will be about \$4 billion higher next year. But, what the hey, what's a measly \$4 billion among spendthrift friends, right? ... By the way, Tennessee banker Jimmy Moncrief is out with a new book -- "Everything Obama Knows About the Economy." It features 200 blank pages. ... House rules prohibit members from using their free mailing privileges -- "franking" -- for the primary purpose of wishing constituents a Merry Christmas. Perhaps the rules-makers could provide a better service to constituents by honestly cracking down on "franked" political newsletters that don't even come close to passing the sniff test. ... Today is the first day of winter. But we prefer to think of it as the first day of the three-month countdown to spring. See, it really is all about how you look at things.