

# The Portland Press Herald

## Letters to the editor, Dec. 8, 2011

### **Snowe, Collins should back Democrats' payroll tax cut**

Both Maine Republican Sens. [Susan Collins](#) and [Olympia Snowe](#) apparently support extending the federal payroll tax cut, but question how to pay for it or see only a small economic impact. ("Maine's senators support extending payroll tax cut" – Nov. 30).

It is indeed a historic shift for Republicans to demand that the extension of a federal payroll tax cut beyond Dec. 31 must be offset by a new source of revenue and to argue that the reduction in the payroll tax paid by employees does not stimulate the economy.

Republicans have always invoked the trickle-down theory when proposing bigger tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations – without requiring that those cuts be paid for – which the late John K. Galbraith described in the following terms: If one feeds the horse enough oats, some will pass through to the road for the sparrows.

A sensible and equitable revenue source is proposed by the Democrats to "pay for the payroll tax cut by imposing a 3.25 percent surcharge on the income taxes paid by people whose annual income exceeds \$1 million." (Nov. 30).

Opposition to extending the federal payroll tax cut currently enjoyed by every working American is good neither for the horse nor the sparrows

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