



Letters

Shenanigans

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Robert F. Lyons, Kennebunkport, Maine

You quite rightly give a "Thumbs Down" to the political shenanigans in Washington that have delayed the passage of an extension of the payroll tax cut, which affects 160 million Americans...House Republicans are effectively taking the nation hostage" (Press & Dakotan, Dec. 23).

This includes a thumbs down to Rep. Kristi Noem whose shenanigans to reject the bipartisan Senate effort to protect families from a \$1,000 tax increase put her at odds with the State's other elected leaders, Sens. Tim Johnson and John Thune who joined the overwhelming bipartisan vote of 89-10, to extend the federal payroll tax cut.

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.

As a farmer and rancher, Rep. Noem must surely understand the theory behind this trickle down agrarian image and know that any delay in extending this cut in Social Security payroll taxes not only raises taxes for all but severely hurts 160 million Americans.

Now that Rep. Noem and House Republicans have been taken to the woodshed for their shenanigans, when negotiations resume in January, one hopes that they may have learned a lesson that their opposition to tax cuts for every working American is good neither for the horse nor the sparrows.