

MaineToday.com

Portland Press Herald
KENNEBEC JOURNAL
Morning Sentinel
NEWS 8 WMTW

I want to stand out from my competitors.

MaineToday.com

Press Herald ONLINE VIEWPOINTS

HOME • NEWS • SPORTS • BUSINESS • VIEWPOINTS • OBITUARIES • CLASSIFIEDS • SPECIAL REPORTS • PERSONALS • ARCHIVE

HOME

CLASSIFIEDS

- ▶ Careers
- ▶ Homes
- ▶ Wheels
- ▶ Marketplace
- ▶ Place an ad
- ▶ WebPix

NEWS

- Local and state
- Midday/4PM Reports
- In Depth
- Week in Photos

WEATHER

- 5-day forecast
- On the Ocean

SPORTS

- High schools
- Pirates Cove
- Sea Dogs
- Running

BUSINESS

- News
- Resources
- Maine News Direct
- Classifieds
- Business Services

ENTERTAINMENT

- Movies
- Dining
- Music
- Theater
- Art

CALENDAR

- Southern Maine
- Central Maine

TV LISTINGS

- Search your area

TRAVEL

- Visiting Maine
- Trip Talk
- Vacation Rentals
- Lodging guide

OUTDOORS

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Nature Watching
- More activities
- Campground Guide

20 BELOW

- Teen writing
- Views and reviews

CAREERS

- Classifieds
- Advice and info
- Featured employers

HOMES

- Classifieds
- Advice and info
- Featured agents

Friday, May 30, 2003

[E-mail this story to a friend](#)

EDITORIAL:

Tax bill proves nasty for struggling families

[Copyright](#) © 2003 Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc.

Even as President Bush signed it into law Wednesday, the ugly nature of a package of tax cuts narrowly approved in Congress grew more apparant.

Also growing more obvious is the missed opportunity Sen. Susan Collins had to affect positive change in the bill.

Attention is now turning to a particularly nasty provision in the legislation that exempts some of the neediest working families from substantial tax relief. This is appalling given that wealthy taxpayers will do quite well under the bill, which slashes taxes on corporate dividends and capital gains.

Knowing that they no longer needed the votes of Sen. Olumpia Snowe and other moderates, Republicans in a House-Senate conference changed the tax bill at the last minute. Where most parents will receive a \$400 tax rebate for each child, those who make the least have been excluded from this benefit. Families making from \$10,500 to \$26,625 a year will get no checks this summer. Meanwhile, estimates are that Vice President Dick Cheney will get a \$100,000 break on his taxes annually because of the new law.

Cheney, by the way, cast the deciding vote in the Senate in favor of the tax package because the senators themselves split 50-50 on the matter. This meant Collins had an opportunity to demand a bill that would provide tax relief to the many thousands of Maine families with children who, in the end, were left out. She chose instead to go along with party leaders. Her main condition was a \$20 billion relief package for financially strapped state governments.



TOP

MEDICAL

OF...

[Employe LAND SUF Openings.. Sebago Te DOCK INS Cal...](#)

[Employe delivery G/ DELIVER..](#)

[Employe Environme](#)

[Employe DENTIST ;](#)

[Employe MATERIAL](#)

[loca...](#)

[Employe PLAYGRO](#)

[Employe COMPUTE Executiv...](#)

[Employe Bread Corn BAKE...](#)

[Employe](#)

MOR

Maine

MAINE

CLICK ON A I THINGS TO C VACATION RE RETIREMENT



ONL

Moving to Maine
Retiring in Maine

WHEELS

Classifieds
Resources and info
Featured dealers

MILESTONES

Weddings
Obituaries

MARKETPLACE

Classifieds

DIRECTORIES

Medical Directory
Education Guide
and more

ADVERTISING

Advertising products
Request a quote

About Us

Help/site guide

The aid for states is needed, but it doesn't justify passage of this harmful legislation, which will swell the federal deficit. Before he signed the tax cut into law, President Bush had to sign another bill raising the national debt ceiling by nearly \$1 trillion. The nation will soon owe more than \$7 trillion, a debt that will be paid by our children and grandchildren.

It's also a debt that will be a drag on the economy, as interest rates will be higher because of government borrowing. That will make it even tougher on those Maine families who won't be getting rebate checks this summer.

Collins should have thought of them before casting her vote.

[To top of page](#)



Get an e-mail with the day's headlines each morning.

Your e-mail:

Signup now

... or visit our [signup page](#) for more information.



Copyright © Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc.