side that has a plan, we are talking about what the two plans are, and we will see what the American people want to do.

President Obama and our friends in the Senate should work with Republicans in the Senate to cut spending and to pass a budget in a transparent way. Republicans have been willing to do that. Democrats may be willing to join in that. And if they are, the American people can begin to see more than a last-minute, back-room deal. I am tired of seeing this planned crisis, one right after another, and I have a feeling the people I work for are even more tired of it than I am.

A divided government is a good opportunity to make tough choices. The President will never have more political capital than he has right now. Let's take those two things together and let's see what that formula would produce. A divided government—Republicans and Democrats both have to take responsibility—and a President with maximum political capital could equal a good and long-term result. I hope the President and the majority in the Senate get serious about working together and solving the problems we face as a country.

I look forward to being part of that, and I am appreciative that the House of Representatives has passed legislation that appears to have forced the Senate to do its job on a budget for the first time in 4 years.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business be extended until 12:30 p.m. today and that all provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RETIREMENT OF REV. DR. LINWOOD ''WOODY'' H. CHAMBERLAIN, JR.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the career and the calling of a remarkable Ohioan and a close friend, the Reverend Dr. Linwood H. Chamberlain, Jr. Our Pastor Woody and his wife Peggy are important to Connie and me and to our whole community in Lorain.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, of which I am a member, embraces the motto, ''God's work, our hands.'' It means moral imperatives must be the concern of every citizen. In his 31 years of service to the First Lutheran Church of Lorain, OH, Pastor Woody has labored for love and for justice. He has been doing God's work, as has his wife Peggy, supporting those who suffer, celebrating our community's joys, and being concerned with every citizen.

Pastor Woody has been a counselor and a friend to many. His words, his attentiveness, his patient understanding, and his gentle encouragement have helped members of my home church tackle seemingly intractable problems with poise and with confidence. He supported the First Lutheran family through weddings and funerals, through baptisms and celebrations, and I am especially grateful for his prayers and wisdom over the years.

Pastor Woody has been so valuable to our church, and his leadership will be missed as he just retired. His retirement will be celebrated this coming Sunday.

My mother, whose faith was especially important to her, passed away 4 years ago, around this time of year. She was in hospice care in her final days. My wife Connie and I were at her bedside—and my brothers Bob and Charlie and their wives Anne and Catherine were at her bedside over the past 6 weeks—and one day when I was with my Mom I asked if there was anything I could do to comfort her. She was 88 years old. She was just a remarkable woman as a mother and as a wife and an activist in the community. She asked me to sing an old Lutheran hymn to her, which I did. The song was ''Beautiful Savior.''

She took my hand in hers as I sang. She said, ''That was very nice, Sherrod.'' She said, ''But you really do sound better in a group.''

My mom was right. We all sound better in a group, work better in a group, and that was exemplified in so many ways by Pastor Woody's leadership at First Lutheran. It is a lesson we all can learn in this body as we go about our daily lives.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate recess until 2 p.m. to allow for caucus meetings today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:21 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. HEITKAMP).

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 3 p.m. today and that all provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FISCAL PLANNING

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about the debt crisis facing this country and the opportunity we have to address this issue in a way that balances the budget and ensures the long-term fiscal solvency for future generations.

The recent fiscal cliff agreement which enacted tax relief for 99 percent of Americans addressed the revenue side of the equation. But as everyone knows, revenue increases alone are not going to solve the debt crisis. In fact, the tax increases that went into effect as a part of the fiscal cliff deal generate enough revenue over the next 10 years—and I should say if we annualize that over the next year—to fund the government for less than 1 week next year. So all the talk about the higher revenues and what that will do to address our long-term fiscal solvency and what it will do to address the deficit, if we think about it in those terms, it puts into perspective what the real problem is.

We have a debate in this city and in the Congress all the time about whether we can address the huge debt we have in front of us—the trillion-dollar annual deficits—by raising taxes on the so-called rich and people in the higher income categories. That was done. That was done as part of the fiscal cliff negotiations that occurred. Remember, those taxes were all scheduled to go up. They were scheduled to go up on everybody—anybody who had income tax liability on January 1. Because of the agreement that was reached, we were able to protect 99—in my case in South Dakota more than 99—percent of taxpayers from those tax increases. That being said, there are those in the higher income categories and some businesses that will see higher taxes as a result of that. But those higher taxes represent enough revenue next year to fund the Federal Government for less than 1 week.

The question before us is, What do we do for the other 358 days of the year? That is what we have to start talking about, the real problem: What truly affects and afflicts Washington and our fiscal situation for the foreseeable future and for the long-term future; that is, government spending.

The reality is the Federal Government doesn't tax too little; it spends too much. Over the past 4 years, the deficit has exceeded $1 trillion each