

around us to at last—at long last—reduce the carbon pollution that is causing it.

It is time to wake up. Carbon pollution from fossil fuels is threatening our future. Unless we take serious action to scale back the pollution, the consequences may well be dire. Congress is sleepwalking through history. It is time to hear the alarms, roll up our sleeves, and do what needs to be done. It is time to wake up.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to talk a little about the bill that is coming over from the House that would require the Senate to—surprise—have a budget. I know the law already requires the Senate to have a budget, but apparently that law wasn't good enough for us to have a budget for the last 3 years. So I am supportive of the House decision to do that. In fact, I am supportive of almost any discussion that requires us to talk about what we are going to do about spending.

You know, if you have been living outside your means, if you can't pay your bills and you go to a credit counselor, the credit counselor is highly unlikely to say: Your problem is you need another credit card. The credit counselor is going to say: You need to figure out how you are going to pay your bills, and that includes things such as having a budget, it includes things such as figuring out what you are spending money on that you can stop spending money on. That is what we need to do, and it is what we need to do with a budget.

Somehow in the face of unprecedented spending and record Federal debt, the President and even Senate Democrats for a few years now have been saying that in Washington all we need to do is get another credit card. Our problem, I hear, is not a spending problem, it is a health care problem or it is a whatever kind of problem it is. It is clearly a spending problem.

There is no doubt that Washington is living outside its means. The Federal debt has skyrocketed to a record \$16.5 trillion. President Obama's first term added almost \$6 trillion to that total. There is no reason to believe we have done anything to slow down the spending and debt path we have been on. Meanwhile, it has been 1,360 days since the majority in the Senate and the Senate itself has managed to pass a budget. In fact, I think during that 1,316 days we haven't even had the

Budget Committee report a budget out for the Senate to vote on.

Last summer Vice President BIDEN said: Show me your budget and I will tell you what you value. Well, let's find out what we value. Let's find out what the majority in the Senate values. When the Vice President talked about showing the budget, he was talking about the Republican budget, because there actually was one. The Republican House had passed a budget. In fact, the Senate and the House both passed a budget every single year from the passage of the Budget Control Act in the mid-1970s until 2010. In 2010, both the House and the Senate—the House with Speaker PELOSI and the Senate with the current majority—said: We don't care what the law says, we are not going to pass a budget. That lasted 1 year in the House, but it has lasted now 3 years in the Senate. In 2011 and 2012 the House came back and passed a budget.

The Republicans have voted for serious budgets that make tough choices, and even those choices were choices that made us go out and explain what we were for. And, of course, that is exactly what the Vice President was talking about when he said: Show me your budget, I will show you your values. There was only one side that had a budget. So that was a pretty harmless position, from the point of view of the Vice President, because he was saying: Let's look at the budget the other guys have put on the table because we don't have one on the table; we have not said what we are for.

The Senate Democrats have ignored the law, ignored their legal obligation to pass a budget, while House Republicans have now said the Senate should either pass a budget or not be paid, and I agree with that. It is a fundamental step toward planning.

The second step is to vote on appropriations bills. We haven't voted on a single appropriations bill in the Senate in over a year. We don't have a budget, so there is no plan to try to get spending under control; and then we don't vote on how we are going to spend the money in any way other than some big continuing resolution, which basically is a bill that says we are going to continue spending money as we have been spending money, and here are the two or three exceptions. But we are not going to have the debate I think the Senate needs to have. Frankly, I believe our new Appropriations chairman, BARBARA MIKULSKI, is going to be insisting we bring appropriations bills to the floor, and I think that is a good thing.

The failure to have a Senate budget has too often been described as a minor procedural matter. Senator SCHUMER said recently: Well, the Democrats didn't have a budget because there was a budget that came out of the sequester agreement in mid-2011. Never mind the Senate hadn't had a budget that spring or the spring before that or that the Parliamentarian said the sequester

deal wasn't a budget, somehow coming up with one number was supposedly good enough to come up with a budget.

That is like sitting around the kitchen table to decide how you are going to spend your money, and here is how the discussion would go: OK, I think we ought to spend X amount of money. That is the meeting. We have just decided that is what we are going to do. And somehow that is the budget? Particularly when X amount of money didn't relate at all to the amount of money coming into your family. Nobody believes that would make sense.

We will see whether Senator SCHUMER's words this weekend will produce a budget. The House has acted. The President says he wants the debt ceiling increased. Hopefully, the majority has decided to pass a budget. The new budget chairman, Senator MURRAY, said yesterday that her committee will draft a budget. Now let's let the Senate produce a budget. Let's have a budget drawn up, let's have a budget debated, and let's figure out what our plans are.

Budgets lay out plans. We will see if a budget that a majority in the Senate would vote for will pass the straight-face test with the American people. We will see if this is just another budget that says: OK, here is the amount of money we want to spend; it has no relationship to the amount of money we have, but let's let that be our budget.

The people will no longer tolerate, I am convinced, the amount of debt and taxes that that type of spending plan would require. For them to think about that, they have to have a spending plan, and so I am grateful the House passed legislation that says we have to have that plan. When the majority in the Senate—Democrats in the Senate—have a budget, we will see how they feel about continuing to attack the budget the House has been willing to come up with for the last two Congresses. Right now they can talk about the cuts that Republicans in the House want because there are no Senate cuts. There is no Senate budget.

So let's have an apples-to-apples comparison. Let's compare what Republicans in the House would do compared to what Democrats in the Senate would do and figure out what our plan needs to be. It is often said that when you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Not having a budget is sort of the entry level of failing to plan. We have failed to do the first thing you would do if you were going to have a plan, if you were going to get your spending under control.

My Republican colleagues and I in the Senate have—even though there wasn't a Budget Committee product—actually found ways to vote for and support the Republican-passed budget from the House and, of course, we paid the price for that. People were out there saying: Here is what you want to do about this program and here is what you want to do about that program. But we are going to move quickly from where, rather than just attacking one

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