

'I'm not done' yet, Brown says, at Worcester Economic Club's annual meet



Former U.S. Sen. Scott Brown, right, talks with invited guests at a private reception before his talk at the Worcester Economic Club's 110th annual meeting. (T&G Photo/STEVE LANAVA)

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WORCESTER — Former U.S. Sen. Scott P. Brown believes that President Barack Obama could begin to break the political gridlock in Washington by simply inviting congressmen from both parties to Camp David for pizza and beer.

Instead, Mr. Brown, now a political analyst with Fox News, said the Democratic president is busy blaming Republicans for the stalemate that's been enveloping national politics the last few years.

And Mr. Brown, a Republican, said many in his own party are also to blame for the inability of Congress to pass any meaningful legislation.

"We are in deep trouble," said Mr. Brown to about 200 members of the Worcester Economic Club, who attended the organization's 110th annual meeting Wednesday

night at the College of the Holy Cross.

Mr. Brown, who had filled the Senate seat left vacant by the death of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy but lost a re-election bid last year to Harvard University law professor Elizabeth Warren, said little has changed since he left the Senate chambers.

He said Congress remains paralyzed because of partisan bickering, noting that many legislators use bullying to get their way.

"No one wants to take the bull by the horns. ... I find that frustrating," said Mr. Brown, a former Wrentham selectman who served three terms as a state representative and five years in the state Senate.

LLP, said the nation faces many challenges, including a deficit that continues to mount.ξMr. Brown, who recently joined the law firm of Nixon Peabody

He added that he wished he were still in the Senate seeking solutions to the country's problems.

"The voters spoke, and I get it," said Mr. Brown, talking about his loss to Ms. Warren. "Living goes on. I'm not going to cry in my beer."

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Brown said the Republicans "need to have a bigger tent" and to be more inclusive. He added that many GOP voters use litmus tests for candidates, to the detriment of the party.

Mr. Brown noted that he did lose some Republican support when he crossed party lines on issues that he felt were important to the state.

Addressing his future as a politician, Mr. Brown did not rule out another run for elective office.

Some polls have him leading all potential contenders in a race for Massachusetts governor, and some are lobbying for him to make another run for the U.S. Senate but this time out of New Hampshire, where Mr. Brown and his wife, Gail, own a vacation home.

"I don't really know what I might be doing," said Mr. Brown. "But I know that I'm not done."

He said the American people are yearning for people with integrity "who are willing to put the country first."



Former U.S. Sen. Scott P. Brown, right, talks with Tom Ryan, left, president of the Worcester Economic Club, and Karyn Polito, former Massachusetts state representative, during a private reception at the 110th annual meeting of the Worcester Economic Club. (T&G Staff/STEVE LANAVA)

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