Madam President, before I go to my formal remarks I have

prepared, as I indicated, I have had extensive conversations during the

past week with Chairman Obey, chairman of the Appropriations Committee,

and I think we have made progress as to where we need to go in order to

do this as soon as possible. There is some controversy over the time

limit. We know the President has indicated he needs the money right

away, but even last year, when the Republicans were in charge, we

finished the supplemental bill in June and there were no complaints at

that time.

We have had a statement from the Congressional Research Service that

the money will last until sometime in July. Even the Pentagon itself

has indicated the money will last until around the first part of June.

So we are going to do the very best we can to complete this as quickly

as possible. We know it is important, and we will move forward as

expeditiously as possible.

During this week, since the House is not here, I intend to continue

my dialog with Chairman Obey. I have not spoken to the Speaker today,

but I have a meeting with her later, at 5 o'clock, and so we will move

forward, and I appreciate the remarks of the Republican leader.