Mr. President, what is the floor situation?

I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I yield myself

approximately 10 minutes.

First, I wish to respond for a few minutes to my colleague, the

Senator from Mississippi, the Republican whip. We have been in session

less than 70 days. We have already been spending more time on

legislation than the Congress led by the other party last year. Last

year, we were in session less time than the Maryland General Assembly.

We only voted 108 days.

Now we have been in session 70 days. We have had a robust work

schedule. Our colleagues in the House have passed significant

legislation. What takes them 1 day takes us 2 weeks. It takes us 2

weeks not only because parliamentarily and constitutionally we are the

more deliberative body, but at the same time it has been the

obstructionist tactics of the other party that has prevented us from

being able to move our legislation.

Nevertheless, thanks to the determination of our majority leader, the

Senator from Nevada, Mr. Reid, we have been able to pass ethics reform.

The American people wanted us to clean up our own act before we cleaned

up Government and, man, have the Republicans left us a lot to clean up:

the Walter Reed scandal, the Attorney General scandal, the national

security letter scandal--scandal after scandal after scandal. We came

saying we weren't going to be seeking investigations, but now their

reckless incompetency is forcing us to do that.

Then we pushed to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations. It

has been 5\1/2\ years since the dastardly attack on the World Trade

Center, and it has taken us forever to implement these recommendations.

So when the other party criticizes us for not doing the people's

business, maybe if they get out of the way with their obstructionist

tactics and let us move ahead with an agenda that is bipartisan, we can

get the job done.

Too often, when all is said and done within the Senate, more gets

said than gets done. So before people throw rocks, remember those who

live in a glass house might end up being shattered to bits themselves.

Let us do our work. Every time we turn around, Harry Reid has to file

another cloture motion. Why? Because they threaten filibuster. So,

hello, don't criticize us.