

No, that's just a joke. But you know, we are making more progress than I think is commonly accepted out there. You know, these things taken out of context are gonna get me in a lot of trouble.

But anyway, we have other areas where we're very close to bracketed text, and then we have areas that are gonna take a lot of work. As you heard earlier, we're aiming for October. Why October? Well, the negotiating authority we're operating under terminates the end of this year, roughly. Sure, we can go back to Congress and ask for more, but boy, anybody that goes to Congress and says give me something, you're gonna have to pay about ten times elsewhere to get that. So the administration doesn't want to have to pay to continue these negotiations, especially if we don't need to. October's what, six months away? Plenty of time. We've got a lot to do, but if we put our minds to it, we can.

To conclude an agreement by the end of the year, we have to notify Congress ninety days before that we're going to enter into this agreement, so that's how you get October from that.

Can we do it? I think we can. It was interesting that Garth mentioned that the administration had to give this a higher priority. For those of us that have been in the trenches, and I appreciate being called a trade specialist as opposed to that nasty word bureaucrat, but the trade specialists have really been the ones out there in the trenches all this time, with very little acknowledgement or recognition. Which is not necessarily a bad thing, but not much recognition from