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POLITICS

Obama Faces Tough Timetable for Stimulus Package

President-elect Barack Obama continues to unveil his plans for economic recovery. That has some analysts looking at how Congress will respond to his timetable.

At his press conference yesterday, Obama emphasized the need to pass a massive stimulus package shortly after he takes office.

OBAMA: I want to see it enacted right away.

Kent Redfield is a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He says passing such complex legislation early in a presidency is no small task, because Congress historically likes to take its time in debating how to dole out large sums of money. And, he says, most politicians like to get TV time talking about the big issues.

REDFIELD: To try and get everybody to put their egos in check and put forth a comprehensive package in a very short time frame is, if they do it, if they pull it off, it's going to be pretty significant.

Redfield says so far, Obama has surrounded himself with people who have a lot of pull in Congress, which could help in winning over needed Republicans.