

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, his appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the National Council on the Arts: The Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2001

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, February 12, for a pro forma session only. No business will be transacted during Monday's session. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate then immediately adjourn over until Tuesday, February 13, at 9:30 a.m. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period for morning business until 12:30 p.m., to be divided in the following fashion: Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, controlling the time between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Senator MURKOWSKI, or his designee, controlling the time between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. in order for the weekly party conferences to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate reconvenes at 2:15 p.m., there be an additional hour for morning business with 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. under the control of Senator DURBIN, or his designee, and 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. under the control of Senator THOMAS, or his designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will not be in session. The Senate will next convene on Monday for a pro forma session only. The Senate will reconvene on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and conduct morning business until 12:30 p.m. Following the weekly recess, and some additional morning business, at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, it is the majority leader's intention to turn to any legislative and executive calendar items that may be cleared for consideration.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator BYRD and Senator HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. NICKLES, for his courtesy. Have a good day.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank the Senator.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces have great abilities, supreme dedication, and they deserve the highest level of support that this Nation can give them.

But despite outstanding military troops, a number of challenges lie ahead for the Department of Defense, particularly in the area of allocating monetary resources. One of the first budget challenges that President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld will face is how to improve military readiness. By now, we are all familiar with the myriad problems confronting our military forces today—recruitment and retention problems, crushing deployment burdens, aging ships and tanks and aircraft, a scarcity of spare parts—even a scarcity of ammunition according to yesterday morning's Washington Post—substandard housing and outdated facilities—and the list can go on and on.

All of these factors affect readiness. All of these deficiencies will require money to correct. Already, representatives of the Joint Chiefs are lobbying the Senate Armed Services Committee for a supplemental appropriations bill to increase the current defense budget by perhaps as much as \$10 billion. Presumably, the Services will get around to making their wishes known to the Appropriations Committee as well, since it is that committee that actually has the responsibility over the supplemental appropriations. But regardless of the tactics employed, the supplemental is just the first sortie. Beyond the current budget, we are bracing for the likelihood of requests for major leaps in defense funding—perhaps as much as \$50 billion a year—just over the horizon.

With that said, I was heartened to read President Bush's comments in Monday's New York Times, in which he called for a comprehensive review of Pentagon priorities and strategies before seeking funding increases for modernization that make sense to me, it seems. Hopefully, President Bush and

Secretary Rumsfeld will be able to impose some order and discipline on the Pentagon budget process. That is probably going to be a pretty big order—a pretty big order to impose some order and discipline on the Pentagon budget process.

Clearly, it is necessary to focus on defense, readiness, and national security. The United States cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that a strong defense is the key to national security. We must never risk complacency in a world that encompasses the likes of Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden; a world in which the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons represents a threat to our very existence.

But before we consider how much more money we need to spend on defense, I believe we should take a close look at how the Pentagon is managing the money and the assets it already has.

Now, one of our colleagues, Senator GRASSLEY, has been very interested in this same subject. It was his intention to speak this afternoon, but other matters have intervened, and he will speak on this same subject one day next week.

Just recently, the General Accounting Office gave us a good insight into the current situation with the release of a status report on the Defense Department's management of key programs and assets. The conclusions are disturbing. In six key areas—financial management, information technology, acquisitions, contracts, support infrastructure, and logistics—the GAO found Defense Department management practices to be vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Together, these deficiencies represent a tremendous drain on the ability of the Defense Department to operate efficiently, effectively, and safely.

The GAO report put it starkly. Here is what it said: If these problems are not addressed, the report stated, "inefficiencies will continue to make the cost of carrying out assigned missions unnecessarily high and, more important, increase the risks associated with those missions. Each dollar that is spent inefficiently," said the report, "is a dollar that is unavailable to meet other internal Department priorities such as weapon system modernization and readiness."

What is most disturbing to me is that, in program after program, management procedures are so garbled that the General Accounting Office cannot even estimate—cannot even estimate—the level of inefficiency. This is a critical knowledge gap when one considers the fact that the Defense Department accounts for about 15 percent of the entire Federal budget, and roughly half of all discretionary spending—roughly half of all discretionary spending.

The Defense Department has a budget of about \$310 billion a year and assets estimated at \$1 trillion. Clearly,