

SEC. 3122. REPORT ON EFFORTS OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO UNDERSTAND PLUTONIUM AGING.

(a) **STUDY.**—(1) The Administrator for Nuclear Security shall enter into a contract providing for a study group of scientists to carry out a study to assess the efforts of the National Nuclear Security Administration to understand the aging of plutonium in nuclear weapons. In contracting for the performance of such services, the Administrator shall seek to enter into that contract with the study group of scientists that is affiliated with MITRE Corporation and known as the JASON group.

(2) The Administrator shall make available to the contractor under this subsection all information that is necessary for the contractor to successfully complete a meaningful study on a timely basis.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—(1) Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the contractor on the efforts of the Administration to understand the aging of plutonium in nuclear weapons.

(2) The report shall include the recommendations of the contractor for improving the knowledge, understanding, and application of the fundamental and applied sciences related to the study of plutonium aging.

(3) The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Friday, June 4, 2004, at 10 a.m., on a judicial nomination in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 226. *Witness List:*

Panel I: Members of Congress.

Panel II: Judge Michael H. Watson to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Mark Kaniut of my staff during consideration of this legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2498

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2498) to provide for a 10-year extension of the assault weapons ban.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4478

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4478, the SBA reauthorization bill, that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, this bill passed the House yesterday. Senator SNOWE and a number of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle are negotiating with the White House to accommodate women's businesses in particular. It is my understanding there is the real possibility that some accommodation can be reached in the next couple of days. In order to accommodate that possibility, I object to moving at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 1:30 p.m., on Monday, June 7. I further ask consent that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the

Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 2:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; provided that at 2:30 p.m. the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 503, S. 2400, the Department of Defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SESSIONS. On Monday, following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Again, it is the leader's hope that we could set the pending amendment aside so other Senators could offer their amendments. We will debate the Defense bill throughout the afternoon on Monday. As announced earlier, there will be no rollcall votes on Monday. The next vote will occur on Tuesday morning prior to the weekly party luncheons. That vote will be in relation to the Kennedy earth-penetrator amendment.

I also remind Senators that under an agreement reached yesterday, all first-degree amendments to the Defense bill must be filed at the desk by no later than 5 p.m. on Monday. This agreement will allow us to move the bill forward, and it is the leader's intention to complete action on the bill next week. Therefore, Senators should expect a busy week, with rollcall votes throughout.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004, AT 1:30 P.M.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:27 a.m., adjourned until Monday, June 7, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.