

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



BUDGET

NICKLES SAYS TAXPAYERS BIG WINNERS

■(WASHINGTON) Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles released the following statement Friday following passage of the omnibus appropriations bill for FY 1996.

"The taxpayers were the big winners in the hard-fought agreement on the final appropriations measure for FY 96," Nickles said. "Thanks to the efforts of House and Senate leaders, the agreement cuts \$23 billion in discretionary spending, and, with offsets, keeps us on the path toward a balanced budget."

"We still have a long way to go. Appropriations bills affect only discretionary spending which accounts for only a third of the \$1.5 trillion the federal government spends every year. We will never be able to reach the goal of a balanced budget until we address the spiraling costs of federal entitlement programs, as we did in the balanced budget bill which President Clinton vetoed."

—US SEN. DON NICKLES, R-OKLA.
04/29/96

BUSINESS & LABOR

HHS RELEASES NATIONAL AGENDA FOR WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH RESEARCH

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Monday released a national agenda for workplace safety and health research. The agenda identifies 21 priority areas for a concerted national research program to protect U.S. workers from job-related injuries, illnesses and deaths.

The National Occupational Research Agenda, which NIOSH developed in close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders such as major corporations and labor organizations, will help the nation focus its job safety and health research on critical needs, improve the use of existing resources, and leverage programs where possible to meet common goals. NIOSH released the agenda at a symposium at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, commemorating NIOSH's 25th anniversary.

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NIOSH is the federal program responsible for conducting research and recommending ways to protect worker safety and health.

The agenda lists the 21 research priorities under three categories: 1. disease and injury (allergic and irritant dermatitis, asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease, fertility and pregnancy abnormalities, hearing loss, infectious diseases, low back disorders, musculoskeletal disorders of the lower back, musculoskeletal disorders of the upper extremities, and traumatic injuries); 2. work environment and work force (emerging technologies, indoor environment, mixed exposures, organization of work, small business, and special populations at risk); and 3. research tools and approaches (cancer research methods, control technology and personal protective equipment, exposure assessment methods development, health services research, social and economic consequences of workplace illness and injury, and surveillance research methods).

—US DEPT. OF HHS
04/29/96

NIOSH CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

■(WASHINGTON) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Monday commemorated their 25th anniversary in a joint event with the Smithsonian Institution to highlight the progress made since 1971 in protecting workers from job-related injuries and illnesses, and to note the challenges that still lie ahead.

In a ceremony at the National Museum of American History, OSHA and NIOSH donated to the Smithsonian several items of historical significance.

OSHA and NIOSH have made tremendous strides in making the work places safe and healthful, but job-related injuries and diseases continue to take serious human and economic tolls, officials from DOL and HHS said Monday in conjunction with the anniversary.

According to the latest annual figures by the Department of Labor, an estimated 6.3 million workers are injured on the job and 515,000 suffer job-related illnesses yearly.

These figures highlight the continued need for vigorous leadership and partnership

by OSHA and NIOSH in national efforts to protect the lives and well-being of workers, officials declared.

"When Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, they promised that it would help assure a safe and healthful workplace for every American," Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala said. "For 25 years, NIOSH has worked with our partners to make good on that promise. But, our work is far from done. Our challenge is to move forward — to continue to put the best science in the world to use — creating American workplaces that are safe, efficient and second to none."

—US DEPT. OF HHS
04/29/96

CRIME

NICKLES: "CLINTON DRUG INITIATIVE IS ELECTION-YEAR PANDERING"

■(WASHINGTON) Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles Monday derided President Clinton's announcement of a new anti-drug campaign, calling it an insincere effort to appear concerned about the drug problem during an election year.

"Today's announcement smacks of insincere election-year pandering."

"Four years ago, thanks to the forceful and frequent use of the bully pulpit by Presidents Reagan and Bush, coupled with sound interdiction and law enforcement policies, we were winning the war on drugs. Today, after more than three years of a silent Administration, youthful drug use is up sharply, hard-core drug use is one the rise, and drugs are available more cheaply and in greater quantities than ever before."

Nickles called for strong measures to curb these alarming trends, including a sound interdiction strategy, a renewed commitment to a full range of international counter-narcotics activities, and more effective enforcement of our nation's drug laws.

—US SEN. DON NICKLES, R-OKLA.
04/29/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

COBURN HIV TESTING PROPOSAL APPROVED

■(WASHINGTON) US Rep. Tom Coburn said Wednesday that the lives of infants will