

more rapidly with one food safety agency.

At a time of government downsizing and reorganization, the U.S. simply can't afford to continue operating multiple systems. In order to achieve a successful, effective food safety and inspection system, a single agency with uniform standards is needed.

Mr. President, National Agriculture Day affords us all the opportunity to say thank you to those who farm, process agricultural products, conduct the research and plan for the future, and keep American agriculture the best in the world.●

#### MIKE JACOBS AND THE STAFF OF THE GRAND FORKS HERALD

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in the months since the devastating blizzards and floods struck North Dakota last year, I have been pleased to draw the Senate's attention to some truly remarkable people who stepped up when their communities most needed them.

Today, I am pleased to report that one such individual was here in Washington recently to receive an honor he richly deserves. Mike Jacobs, the editor of the Grand Forks Herald, was named "Editor of the Year" by the National Press Foundation for his and the Herald's truly remarkable achievements during last year's flood and fires in Grand Forks. I want to add my voice to the chorus of thanks to Mike and to the entire staff of the Herald for their outstanding work under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

I saw firsthand how much it meant to the people of Grand Forks that their hometown newspaper never missed a day of printing throughout the city's crisis.

When the Herald arrived at shelters and emergency centers, it flew off the racks. Clusters of people would gather around and jointly read it. They were starved for news of what was happening in their city during their trying time and they devoured the paper.

Yet even more than a conduit of information, the Grand Forks Herald stood as a powerful symbol of people determined to survive and endure, and as a daily reminder that even in the face of this calamity, Grand Forks would continue to remain a community, something the flood waters would never be able to wash away.

That the Herald was there at all was wondrous. Its building was completely flooded and then soon burned to the ground. The homes of nearly every employee of the Herald were inundated by flood waters.

Yet the Herald, led by Editor Mike Jacobs, never faltered, never missed an edition. It found a temporary office in the grade school of a nearby small town. It located alternative presses, and devised creative methods of distributing the paper to its readers. In the most harrowing of times, it flourished. In doing so, it gave hope, inspiration and purpose to its community.

Mike and the Grand Forks Herald staff are part of the story of last year's flood that doesn't get told nearly enough. As this city overcame the worst disaster in North Dakota history, its citizens have marched back with resilience, fortitude and inspirational spirit. Mike Jacobs, the entire Grand Forks Herald staff and the people of Grand Forks have triumphed, and I am proud to salute them.

I can't express my admiration enough.●

#### RETIREMENT OF JERROLD L. JACOBS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an old friend and successful businessman on the occasion of his retirement as Chair and CEO of Atlantic Energy, Inc.

Jerry and I both have strong roots in Paterson, New Jersey. We grew up there, and our fathers worked together in the silk mills. Being from Paterson, of course, we were both destined for success!

Jerry began working at Atlantic Electric in 1961, first in various managerial positions and then working his way up to Chairman and CEO. Eventually, Jerry rose to the position of Chairman and CEO at Atlantic Energy, the holding company formed in 1987 which incorporated Atlantic Electric.

Besides Jerry's achievements at work, he has several professional and civic affiliations. He holds everything from memberships to chairmanships in organizations such as the New Jersey Utilities Association, the New Jersey Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and the Noyes Museum Board of Directors.

Again, I congratulate Jerry for his devotion to Atlantic Energy for over 35 years, and I extend my warm wishes to his wife Carol and his three children, Michael Jacob, Melissa Kuperminc and Marlene Sandstrom.●

#### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes this afternoon to address the urgent need for IMF funds, to restore confidence to a fragile international financial system and to maintain a leadership role in the world economy.

I am pleased to see that the Appropriations Committee has moved quickly this week to provide funding for continued U.S. participation in the IMF—both for the new arrangements to borrow that represent the emergency reserves of the fund, and for the quota increase to restore the IMF's ability to meet potential new demands on its resources.

The current news from Asia—declining U.S. exports, the threat of increased imports, a more fragile international banking system—has brought home to us the importance of international cooperation to prevent the

outbreak and spread of financial crises. It also reinforces the need to move quickly to restore the IMF's ability to contain the current crisis and to maintain the IMF's ability to respond to future problems.

That is why I am concerned about some of the conditions put on the IMF funds in the Appropriations Committee on Tuesday. Treasury Secretary Rubin, who, along with Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan has repeatedly reminded Senators of the need for quick action on these funds, has called those conditions—and I quote: "Impractical to the point of being unworkable."

This is no way to treat funds that are needed to restore the equilibrium of the international financial system, and to no way maintain the leadership of the United States in the world economy.

The International Monetary Fund was created by us at the end of World War II to maintain the stability of the international financial system. Today, its task as the lender of last resort in the kinds of meltdowns we have seen in Asia is by no means simple.

With the rise of market economies among the developing nations of the world, and with the expansion of the international financial system—both developments that promote the long-term interests of the United States—the task of the IMF has become increasingly difficult.

I am not here today, Mr. President, to argue that the IMF is a perfect institution; in fact, our own Treasury, under the leadership of Secretary Rubin, has used its substantial influence to push for important reforms, to open the IMF to greater public understanding and trust. Secretary Rubin is also working with his counterparts around the world to reform the workings of the international banking system to reduce the risk of crises such as one we watch today in Asia with great concern.

As the leader in the world's economy—indeed as the model economy which the rest of the world aspires to emulate—we in the United States have a special role to play in helping to sustain the health of the international economy. By maintaining our position in the IMF—by paying our dues and maintaining our dominant position there—we will remove lingering doubts in financial markets that make recovery and reform in Asia harder to achieve.

And, as the most open economy in the world, we have the greatest stake in maintaining the stability of international trade and finance. The longer we leave the issue of our IMF commitment in doubt, the more our own farmers, workers, and manufacturers will lose overseas sales.

I want to remind my colleagues that our contributions to the IMF don't cost American taxpayers a dime. Like deposits in a credit union of our own making, our contributions are matched by interest-bearing assets, and we can

call for the return of those contributions if we choose. For those reasons, those contributions have no impact on our Federal deficit—or the surplus we now enjoy.

With the outcome of the Asian crisis still to be determined, with the world looking to us for the leadership that will restore confidence to private sector investors, we must act quickly and decisively to maintain the strength of the IMF—and to maintain our own dominant voice within the IMF. We should not make demands of the IMF that could delay indefinitely the day when private financial markets regain the confidence that will mark the turning point in the current financial crisis.

That is why I am pleased that my friend and colleague on the Foreign Relations Committee—chairman of the International Economic Policy Subcommittee—Senator HAGEL, has taken the lead in introducing legislation authorizing funds for the IMF with workable, sensible reforms. Together with Senator GRAMS on our committee, and Senators ROBERTS, CHAFEE, and DOMENICI, Senator HAGEL has provided us with an important point of reference when we consider IMF funding here on the Senate floor.

And I hope that will happen soon. Right now, there is no guarantee that we will take up the urgent issue of IMF funding at any time this year. Failure to act, and to act soon, would be irresponsible. It would expose the United States as vacillating, indecisive, and unable to lead in a time when what is needed most is leadership and commitment to restore confidence and stability to a shaken financial system.

Similarly, it would be irresponsible to add unrelated, highly charged issues to the consideration of what are clearly urgently needed funds for the IMF.

Mr. President, I am confident that in the end, the United States Senate will respond to the current challenge with both the decisiveness and good judgment that must characterize the actions of a great Nation in time of crisis.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to make that faith a reality.●

#### BODE MILLER: MEMBER OF THE U.S.A. OLYMPIC SKI TEAM

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Bode Miller, a distinguished athlete from Franconia, New Hampshire, for participating in the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Bode had the opportunity to compete in the Olympics because of his dedication to precision, relentless drive for excellence and unswerving passion for skiing.

It was a special honor to have Bode represent our country and the State of New Hampshire while competing in Nagano, Japan. He started skiing at the young age of three at his favorite and most frequented mountain, Can-

non. As a young boy, his ability to ski caught the attention of many. He soon acquired the nickname, "Kid Cannon," and dazzled his peers with his talent. Bode was then invited to a training camp at Sugarloaf Mountain and was soon targeted as a gifted athlete. As a result, he was offered a scholarship to the Carrabassett Valley Ski Academy where he was able to improve his abilities and work with experienced coaches to tune his skills.

Bode burst into the international scene with an 11th-place finish, the best by an American, at the World Cup giant slalom at Park City in November. Before this outstanding finish, Bode was ranked internationally at 69th place. Bode's career then took off and he became a member on the Olympic Ski Team. Often times, the television announcers for the races raved about his athleticism and admired his aggressive style. At the age of 20, in a sport where racers are generally older, the media characterized him as a young rebel.

According to Bode's coach, Bode is very good at figuring out what it takes to be successful and is exceptionally confident. He is aware of his own physical talents and incorporates this attitude in his style. I'm sure, because of his young age, he will continue to excel and impress the nation. Nonetheless, he still has achieved what most only dream about and has proven once again that Americans continue to achieve great feats. At a fresh age, Bode proudly represented our country and delivered a superb performance in the world arena of Olympiads. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Bode Miller for his youthful vigor and aggressive competition in the 1998 Olympics and I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 538, 539, and 540, en bloc.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

James E. Hall, of Tennessee, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

#### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Orson Swindle, of Hawaii, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 1997.

Mozelle Willmont Thompson, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 1996.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY MARCH 20, 1998

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. on Friday, March 20, and immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate then proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Treaty Document No. 105-36, dealing with NATO expansion.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I make the following announcements at the request of the majority leader.

Tomorrow, the Senate will resume consideration of the NATO expansion treaty, with amendments to the resolution of ratification being offered throughout the day. It is expected that Senator HUTCHISON of Texas will offer an amendment tomorrow, and any other Senators with amendments are encouraged to contact the managers with their amendments. As earlier stated, it is hoped that the Senate will be able to make considerable progress on the treaty.

In addition, the Senate may consider any other legislative or executive business cleared for Senate action, although, as previously announced by the majority leader, no rollcall votes will occur during Friday's session.

The next vote will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, hopefully in relation to an amendment to the NATO treaty. Also, the second cloture vote scheduled for this evening was postponed to occur on Tuesday, March 24, in an effort to work on an agreement for an orderly handling of the bill. Therefore, a second cloture vote will occur on the Coverdell A+ bill on Tuesday if an agreement cannot be reached in the meantime.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Friday, March 20, 1998, at 10 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 19, 1998: