

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: