

both policy committees for preparing this format. I was pleased to work with the Democratic leader in securing a time for this debate tomorrow. This week, Senator COCHRAN will be marking up the supplemental appropriations bill. We hope to have that available next week.

Again, we have much on the plate for this week both in terms of floor schedule and other important Senate events. I look forward to a busy legislative period this spring, and trust all of my colleagues are rested and ready to proceed.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the distinguished Republican leader is going to make a statement regarding the Pope. I think that is timely. I will do so at a later time today.

I wanted to pay tribute to Howell Heflin. He was a wonderful man who served in the Senate for 18 years. He actually revolutionized the court system in Alabama. The first amendment they ever had to their Constitution was a result of his reorganization of the court when he was chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Howell Heflin holds the record here, serving as a member of the Ethics Committee for 13 years. He did that with dignity during some of the most difficult times we have seen in the Senate with some of the problems Senators had.

I had the good fortune of traveling to Alabama yesterday to be with his widow Mike at that funeral in the rural community of Tusculumbia, AL. That is where he had his home and law practice and where he died. He had very little suffering. He was 83 years old. He got sick one afternoon and died within an hour or two after that.

The Senate will always be a better place as a result of Senator Heflin having been a Member. Death comes at inopportune times. I want his widow to know that even though there were only a few Senators there, including Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator SHELBY, who had another funeral he had to go to, Senator SESSIONS was there, it came at such an inopportune time. It was the end of the recess period. People didn't know about it, and it was hard for people to be there, but it doesn't take away from the dignity of that proceeding. It was a wonderful funeral. I received a number of phone calls yesterday and today of people wanting to be there. For example, the wind was so heavy yesterday that they had to change the place of takeoff from Andrews to Dulles. As a result of that,

Senator BIDEN, driving down from Delaware, could not make it. He had to drive 35, 40 miles.

Again, we send our condolences to Tom, his son, and Mike, his widow. As a Senate family, we felt so good about Senator Heflin in life and in death.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO

I also say this to the majority leader. I had the good fortune during this break to lead a bipartisan CODEL. We had the opportunity to sit down and talk to President Yushchenko. Here is a man they tried to kill. We think we know who tried to assassinate him. Here is a man whose face is a little disfigured, but his spirit is not. He has the ability, I believe, to bring about a change in that country that will be for generations to come. It is a burgeoning democracy. Things are on the move, and he has a dynamic personality. I am glad he is going to be able to address a joint session of Congress because he is what our country is all about. So I commend and applaud the Speaker for arranging for this man, a good man, to speak before a joint session of Congress. It will make us all better for having the ability and the opportunity to listen to him.

I apologize to the leader for taking more time than usual, but I will return at a later time and make some remarks about the Pope, who passed away.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, this body, the Senate, and the world community grieve for the passing of Pope John Paul II. He passed away Saturday evening, April 2, in his bed overlooking St. Peter's Square. Millions of Catholics and non-Catholics alike mourn the departure of one of the greatest spiritual leaders and moral teachers of the modern era.

Pope John Paul set an extraordinary example of personal integrity and courage, not only for his fellow Catholics but for people of every religious and philosophical viewpoint.

Pope John Paul was born Karol Joseph Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Poland, a country which at the time was a desolate, impoverished, and war-torn place. By the time John Paul reached the age of 21, every close member of his family had died. Most people would have been devastated by such losses. But for John Paul, this early experience of suffering deepened his spirituality and his capacity to find meaning in man's frailty.

John Paul was ordained as a priest at the age of 26. In 1964, he became the Bishop of Krakow. Three years later, he was elevated to cardinal by Pope Paul VI. In 1978, he became the first non-Italian in 455 years to be elected Pope of the Catholic Church.

For the next 2½ decades, Pope John Paul campaigned tirelessly for human rights and dignity throughout the

world. He practiced and inspired resistance to the great totalitarian systems that rose and, with his help, fell in the 20th century. He had the key insight that, in his words, "the historical experience of socialist countries has sadly demonstrated that collectivism does not do away with alienation, but rather increases it, adding to it a lack of basic necessities and economic inefficiency."

His historic trip to Poland in 1979 catalyzed the Solidarity movement and led to the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet empire.

John Paul fostered harmony between Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant Christians. He reached out in friendship to Jews and members of other faiths, and he warmly promoted interfaith understanding.

He was the first Pope to visit a mosque and the first Pope to visit a synagogue. A poet, a playwright, and a philosopher, Pope John Paul II dedicated himself to the defense of the weakest and most vulnerable members of the human family.

He eloquently defended the right to life of every human being, irrespective of race or sex, age or size, stage of development, or condition of dependence. He believed that "science can purify religion from error and superstition. Religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes."

On his visits to the United States, he called on all Americans to be faithful to the great principles of liberty included in our Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution. Even in his last frail moments, he remained devoted to God and the cause of justice. His selfless service to God and man will remain an inspiration to all people of good will across the globe.

I will close with a poem he wrote for his mother at the age of 19. It reflects his extraordinarily sensitive nature and closes with a prayer the world now sends out to him. It is entitled "Over This, Your White Grave":

Over this, your white grave,
The flowers of life in white,
So many years without you,
How many have passed out of sight?
Over this, your white grave,
Covered for years, there is a stir
In the air, something uplifting
And, like death, beyond comprehension.
Over this, your white grave,
Oh, Mother, can such loving cease?
For all his filial adoration
A prayer:
Give her eternal peace.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of