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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** FLAG COMMISSION AND HEARINGS  
**DATE** 10/25/00  
**CC:** FILE

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Per Boyd's request, I have prepared the attached narrative for distribution at the public hearings being held on the state flag. Citizens at the first public hearing in Tupelo last Thursday evening did not seem to understand the role of the Commission or that the decision as to whether citizens will vote on this matter rests with the Legislature. I have designed this narrative as an educational tool for distribution at the hearings.

The Commission will hold four more public hearings:

- Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: Meridian Community College, Meridian
- Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead
- Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: Gulf Coast Community College, Jefferson Davis Campus (Gulfport)
- Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: Millsaps College, Jackson

Senior Staff has reviewed the attached narrative. **Please advise as to if this meets with your approval for distribution at Thursday's hearing in Meridian.** Thank you.

## *Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat of Arms*

The Mississippi Supreme Court ruled Mississippi did not have an official state flag and coat of arms on May 4, 2000. Governor Musgrove created the “Advisory Commission on the State Flag and the Coat of Arms” to propose and report a suggested design for the flag and the coat of arms to the Governor, the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House on or before May 4, 2001.

The Advisory Commission may recommend Mississippi’s traditional state flag or may recommend a new design for the state flag. The Commission works in an advisory role only. The Advisory Commission is working quickly to complete its work before the 2001 Legislative Session.

The Legislature may choose to adopt the Advisory Commission’s recommendations, adopt an alternative, or let the registered voters of the state vote on the design of the flag. The Advisory Commission cannot designate a new flag or coat-of-arms, only the State Legislature can at this time.

The Advisory Commission believes that input from the public, both in the form of hearings and through written comments, is essential. The Commission is holding a public hearing in each congressional district in order to obtain the public’s comments and opinions on this matter. Everyone attending the public hearings is asked to comply with the following guidelines:

- Please register at the door and provide your name and address.
- If you wish to speak during the hearing, please register at the door beginning at 6:30 p.m. The moderator will recognize each speaker in the order in which they registered.
- Each organization may designate one representative to speak on behalf of the organization.
- To ensure enough time for all those wishing to speak, please hold your comments to three (3) minutes.
- Anyone may file written statements or relevant document(s) with the hearing moderator.

You may also direct written comments to the Commission at the following address:

Flag Commission  
P.O. Box 139  
Jackson, MS 39205-0139