

**MEMORANDUM**

January 3, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John  
Lee Ann

RE: Points for AP meeting (Woolfolk Conference Room) and Capitol Press  
Corps (Capitol office)

The following individuals will be attending the meeting from AP: Emily Wagster, Ron Harist, Jack Elliot, Frank Fisher, John Porretto and Roger Solis (photographer).

The next page provides bullet points on issues for your reference.

### **Budget**

- Collections for year approximately \$120 million below sine die estimate of 3.7%
- Showed fiscal responsibility by asking agencies to budget 45% for first half of fiscal year
- Working to compromise with Legislature on revenue estimates
- No budget is legal until agreed upon by law
- Can't affect Wall Street, but can affect Main Street

### **Education**

- Commitment made to pay teachers as professionals
- Mississippi going from 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in nation in terms of teacher salary
- *New York Times* praised Mississippi's work with teacher pay
- "Computers in Classrooms" helping build future workforce / human capital

### **Economic Development**

- Nissan suppliers to date = approximately \$230M invested and 2,000 more jobs
- Bob Rohrlack hired to replace J.C. Burns
- Working aggressively to continue selling Mississippi with Advantage Mississippi
- Met with high-level decision makers in Korea; hope to go to Japan after session
- Asia is major trade partner with MS; nearly \$498M in MS exports to Asia in 2000

### **Redistricting**

- Responsibility rested with Legislature; should be done in capitol, not courtroom
- Legislature abdicated this responsibility

### **Ayers Case**

- 27 years too long to tie hands of universities; that's why brought parties together
- Ruling is investment in human capital and higher public education
- Better access and opportunities for students
- Legislative leadership participated in process; confident in passage of resolution

### **State Flag**

- In April, 65% of voters chose to keep current flag
- People spoke; important to accept vote and move on with business of Mississippi

### **September 11**

- Executive order capping gas prices after reports of price gouging
- Increased security at state buildings
- National Guard personnel at airports per President Bush's request
- National Guard personnel at Grand Gulf facility
- Adjutant General James H. Lipscomb III named contact with White House Office of Homeland Security

### **Other Stories**

- Fatal storms in February and November
- Visit of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia