

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Musgrove  
FR: Lee Ann Mayo  
DT: May 1, 2002  
RE: Financial Times Request

Stephanie Kirchgaessner, Financial Times Request – 917-324-5317  
She has requested, face-to-face, phone, or statement for today regarding Bernie Ebbers and WorldCom.

Stephanie's story has a "local" focus. Her mission is to write about the impact on Mississippi by interviewing business leaders and Mississippians here in town.

Your questions:

1. What does WorldCom mean to Mississippi?

WorldCom has brought high paying, good quality jobs to the state. The fact that this multi-billion dollar international corporation is located here in Mississippi helps in our recruiting efforts to bring other companies to Mississippi.

2. In your opinion, what happened to WorldCom?

*Recommend no answer on this one.*

3. What is your opinion of Bernie Ebbers?

Bernie Ebbers was key to building WorldCom. He has been an excellent citizen of the State of Mississippi. He has a strong commitment of giving back to local charities.

4. Did Bernie Ebbers put or help put Mississippi on the map?

Bernie Ebbers certainly has received international attention. However, we have many other Mississippians that have already put us on the map, such as William Faulkner, Willie Morris, John Grisham, Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, Eudora Welty, and Leontyne Price.

5. Do you think (hope) WorldCom should stay or leave?

We certainly hope they will stay.

6. What is the economic impact of WorldCom?

WorldCom is a strong corporate citizen. Thousands of Mississippians are working in good, quality jobs at WorldCom. Certainly, it has had a positive impact.