

What did you think about Jesse Jackson's refusal to honor your request to make an apology?

Let me ask you a question. Is this about Jesse Jackson, or is this about Ronnie Musgrove? The answer is no. This is about a family that is hurting in Kokomo, MS who has lost a child-Who has lost a loved one. It is about making sure that we do everything within our power in the State of MS to provide that family with the knowledge that we have completed a full investigation and that we have uncovered all the facts. We owe that to the family, and that is where our concentration will be.

What is your response to Senator Blackmon's letter in regards to race?

Once again, I think it is very important that we understand, and that I understand, the focus needs to be on a family that is hurting. It needs to be on what we do today to help our people. None of us can change the past, but every one of us today have the opportunity to provide our people with good job opportunity with good educational opportunities and with the knowledge that they are entitled to be treated fairly by our justice system and by our state. That is what we are committed to do, and that is what I am going to do as Governor. Every student and every person in the state of MS is entitled to a fair opportunity, and we are going to work to make that happen.

IHL Board and Econ. Dev. Board –

We have African American input across the board, and that is important. Our partnerships and our efforts need to reflect the diversity of our state, and certainly that is what we are going to do. What is most important is when we pass a program that will put into place good job opportunities that those job opportunities extend to every community, every location regardless of make up, regardless of background. Every community should have that kind of opportunity. That is what we are trying to do, and that is what I am intent on doing because that is the only way we are going to move our state forward. I have said it before, and I will say it again, we are one state, we are one community and we are one people and we have one future and that future is together. That is all of us making sure we have good opportunities for everyone. That is what I am committed to make happen.

Mentioned that you had not spoken to the family. Have you now or do you intend to?

The family has been out of town and certainly we will do so. It is important that we reach out to the Johnson family and that we realize and know that this is a very difficult

time for them. It would be a difficult time for any of us, and we need to make sure that we keep that in mind. I will contact them when they return.

Is there any concern on your part

I think it is important for us all to know that as Governor of the State of Mississippi, I have the privilege and responsibility of being Governor for every citizen of our state. That will be the same today, tomorrow and the same every day that I have the opportunity to be Governor. Every citizen deserves that of my leadership, and certainly I will do that regardless of whether we are talking about educational opportunities, whether we are talking about good job opportunities, whether we are talking about fairness and access to the justice system or whatever we are talking about. It is important that we do that and I am committed to making that happen.