

As we attract new business and industry to Mississippi we continue to face the issue of our state flag and our state image. “Even now, forty years after the state’s last recorded lynching, Mississippi plays in the national imagination as a grand storyboard, not so much a place as a parable. Everything within is a symbol, everything refers to something else. Yes, everybody knows about Mississippi: The past is never dead. It’s not even past” – that statement was taken from the December 2000 issue of GQ magazine. People are ready to believe the worst about our state because of our past – because of our history.

It is time for us to move forward. When we face challenges, we must look at what best serves the people of Mississippi. Next week, I encourage the members of the State Legislature to adopt a referendum vote of the people to determine the design of the Mississippi state flag.

Immediate action must be taken by the legislature. We must act now so that we can move forward as one state – as one people.