

June 21, 2000

Memorandum

To: Governor

From: Lisa

Subject: Red Carpet Tour – Hattiesburg

You are scheduled to ATTEND this event and not speak, but if you are asked to say a few words, you may want to keep the following in mind:

1. IHL Board Appointments are made according to 1944 Congressional Districts. The open appointments were all in Northern Mississippi counties (1,2,3 and 4). You selected people who would best represent the diversity of the state and would work in the best interest of all universities.
2. USM Gulf Coast Campus – favor
3. Ayers Case – 25 years with no resolution is too long. We have taken steps in the right direction. All of the representatives are committed to working together so that all Universities prosper. We must resolve this so that we can move our university system forward.
4. Retirement Special Session- House Bill 1281 provides a partial lump sum payment equal to as much as three times annual benefits as an option for state retirees and teachers who choose that option, and Highway Patrol officers are eligible for an unreduced service retirement benefit through this legislation. Our teachers, state employees and highway patrol officers need these benefits, which is why I am only putting the legislative supplemental provision on the call. I am, have been in opposition to the provision that increased the retirement for members of the legislature.
5. Polymer Science – The cutting edge technology being done at the Polymer Science Department at Southern Miss is a strong factor in recruiting industry to the Greater Hattiesburg Area. Having an excellent public school system, top rated

community and junior colleges and both William Carey College and the University of Southern Mississippi within such close proximity, helps to place Hattiesburg at the top of the list for many industries looking to locate, relocate or expand their current facilities.

6. Camp Shelby – I was just touring Camp Shelby on Thursday of this week. I had the opportunity to meet with soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Task Force, which consists of approximately 500-600 Mississippians. They are currently in train up for their Bosnia rotation, which will be in October 2001. They have the responsibility of protecting the men and women of this nation, and they are receiving the training they need to do that right here at Camp Shelby. This is the most intensive train up. They have a lot of work to do in a short period of time, and I know that they will make us all proud. They have already proven themselves when they were selected to attend the national training center in California last summer. They are currently training at Camp Shelby from a mock up of a Bosnia base camp so that they will be fully prepared and ready for their rotation when they travel to Bosnia.

General Walker has been highly involved with the training of all members of the MS National Guard, and he is committed to preparing the men and women of the guard for battle.

I understand that 40 legislators will be attending and Amy Tuck will be in attendance.