

MEMORANDUM

August 24, 2001

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Press conferences

I am working on setting up a press conference for Monday, August 27, regarding education and the impact of what's happening in Washington on the states. While the focus of all the material from the DNC is on the failures of the Bush administration, this is a good opportunity to talk about what's happening here despite the lack of leadership from Washington – teacher pay, computers in the classroom, testing, etc.

Duff said he spoke to you about this and suggested inviting the chairs and co-chairs from the education committees to join you. The lateness of the scheduling of this press conference may present problems in getting them here. I don't know if Alice Harden would want to be there anyway. I can call Beverly Sanders, but I don't think we'll have any chance to get teachers there with school in session.

Is the time okay for you on Monday? YES NO

Do you want to try to get Harden, Chaney, Warren and Frierson here to join you? YES NO

Do you want me to call Beverly Sanders? YES NO

I have spoken with Jill about this, and it is on the schedule for 10:30am on Monday. As usual, we would hold it in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Boyd asked me to find a date to hold a "Computers in the Classroom" press conference as soon as possible. I have one tentatively scheduled with Jill for 9:00am, Thursday, August 30. This is the day we go to Fort Benning, but we could get the press conference in that morning. The press conference would announce that State Farm Insurance, Trustmark, AmSouth, Bancorp South and Union Planters are donating more than 600 computers to this initiative.

Finally, Kelly sent me a copy of a letter she received from The Blooming Magnolia Scholarship Fund, Inc., out of New York, NY. This fund was started by Cynthia Brown, a native of Greenville (she said in the letter she spoke to you at the picnic in June). A copy of the letter is attached for your information. She is requesting a quote from you for their press release.

Do you want me to prepare a quote? YES NO