

MEMORANDUM

October 31, 2001

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Meeting with Capitol Press Corps, 1:45pm, 10/31/01

CC: Lee Ann

The following will be attending the meeting in your office: Emily Wagster, Patrice Sawyer, Bobby Harrison and Reed Branson. They are most interested in redistricting. The message continues to be that redistricting is the legislature's responsibility. They have been working and researching for more than six months. They should not abdicate their responsibility to the people of Mississippi and allow a federal court to draw the district lines. (There is a redistricting committee meeting at 2:00p.m., so this is a good opportunity to drive this message home again).

If they ask about security since September 11, the following has been done:

- You have supported President Bush's request for National Guard support for security at airports around the state. You have also approved the expansion of the Guard's role depending on the needs of the airports around the state. In most cases, the expansion includes having Guard personnel patrol the exterior of the terminal buildings.
- You have issued an executive order (signed last night) authorizing Adjutant General Lipscomb to call up Guard personnel to provide security at Grand Gulf nuclear plant. This was done in response to credible threats regarding public facilities.

The Federal Aviation Administration has also issued orders that forbid aircraft from flying within 11.5 miles of any nuclear plant in the country. There are 86 plants in the U.S.

- We are prepared for whatever situation may arise. State agencies including the Department of Health, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Safety, Department of Environmental Quality, and Mississippi Highway Patrol have already met with the FBI and the United States Postal Service. They have established and distributed protocols for handling anthrax threats to all law enforcement and emergency agencies around the state.

The above mentioned agencies have remained in constant communication. In fact, they will be meeting with you this afternoon to continue their work. It is because of the work they have been doing that you have asked Attorney General Mike Moore to chair a task force to develop a comprehensive package regarding terrorism for legislative review. We believe the work of the task force can be greatly enhanced by coordinating its efforts along with the upcoming summit on domestic preparedness.

- It is important for the media and the general public to remain calm yet cautious about what is happening around them. Common sense and patience must be practiced. There have been threats but *no* confirmed incidents regarding anthrax or any other biological or chemical agent in Mississippi. *Unless people hear something from the Department of Health, it's a rumor.*