

MEMORANDUM

October 18, 2001

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Media inquiries

Tim Roche, Bureau Chief for Time Magazine in Atlanta, called this afternoon and wanted to see if he could get 10 minutes with you on the phone for an interview. The focus would be on homeland security from the state perspective. He wants to know, what are the hard questions state leaders are asking of the Centers for Disease Control, the FBI, the White House? Hypothetical question – if there are attacks in Washington, Jackson and Dallas, how concerned are you about Mississippi getting the support it needs? What costs are we having to absorb to train police officers, emergency workers, etc., to strengthen and support increased security measures?

I did speak with Tim about the press conference held Tuesday morning and the executive order you signed implementing an incident management system. I've faxed a copy of the release and the executive order to him.

Tim's number is 800-275-0555; call the number and you will need to wait for the operator to come on, then ask for Tim.

Patrice Sawyer is working on a story about the turnover of senior staff and agency heads since you took office. She said the people she's interviewed so far (no names given) have been split on the reasons; some say it's normal, others say it's due to micromanagement.

Suggested statement: *"Since taking office, I have been focused on the work I was elected to do. There have been difficult decisions to make along the way. Transition in any administration is not unusual; the hours are long and the work is hard."*

Jim Bevers with Mississippi Network called this morning for any statements he could get regarding your position on tort reform and the Choctaw situation. He is aware that you have talked about meeting with the Choctaws to discuss the compact; his main question is, would this be an open meeting?

Suggested statement: *"I hope to meet with Chief Martin in the near future to discuss the tribe's compact with the state. We have no set date at this time. It is important for us to have an opportunity to discuss the situation frankly and privately."*

Suggested statement on tort reform: