

Bay Springs Rotary Club
Monday, October 30, 2000
12:30 p.m.
City of Bay Springs, City Hall

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- It is a pleasure to be here today
- Thank Rickey Ruffin for his introduction
- Story on Priorities

Main Points

1. Budget
 - a. Priorities
 - i. We are making sure that Mississippians have strong schools, quality health care and safe communities
 - ii. We have made our people's priorities – our priorities
 - iii. Good education, quality health care and public safety top the list

- b. For the first time, the Governor presented his budget to the Committee at the beginning of the process
 - i. I have taken a progressive approach to budgeting that includes more accountability and fewer excuses.
 - ii. I have given the Committee a complete budget that is accountable and meets the needs of our people
 - iii. A plan of action to implement the budget
 - iv. Focused on the greatest areas of need in our state.
- c. We must stabilize our budget
 - i. 8.25% growth rate – too optimistic for FY'01
 - ii. We have to be responsible in our spending
 - iii. Maximize federal funds
 - iv. Focused on providing quality services for the people of MS while placing an emphasis on efficiency
 - v. Enjoy a Quality of Life right here in Mississippi.

2. Advantage Mississippi

a. Economic Development Plan

- i. First plan in 11 years

- ii. Before it was a patchwork approach with E.D.
- iii. Now it is
 - 1. Sound/Comprehensive
 - 2. Variety of Incentives
- iv. Now MS has a management tool to sell the state
 - 1. Designed by business leaders across the state and noted E.D. experts throughout the nation
 - 2. Had the strong support of business people and local developers
 - a. They knew how important it was for our plan to pass and become reality
 - 3. We are in direct competition with our sister states
 - 4. (Talk about conversation with Georgia Governor)
- v. The plan helps those communities that have not prospered
 - 1. Gives opportunities for all cities/counties
 - 2. Begin using immediately
 - 3. Sends a signal to the nation – Serious about Business

4. A Marketing Plan being developed to sell the state
- vi. More, higher paying jobs for people of Mississippi
 1. Competing with other states for those jobs
 2. We now have a competitive advantage
 3. Creates a better Quality of Life for every person in all 82 counties
- b. Key elements of the Package
 - i. Name Change
 1. Mississippi Development Authority
 - ii. Ace Fund
 - iii. Regional Economic Development Act
 - iv. Mississippi Advantage Jobs Act
 1. Allows qualifying businesses to receive up to 4% of their employee's wages back at the end of each quarter as a rebate from MS Tax Comm.
 - v. Growth & Prosperity Act
 1. 10-year exemptions (including school taxes) to qualifying companies locating in designated counties

- vi. Tax Credit Amendments
 - 1. Mixture of tax credit incentives targeting high-tech, research and higher paying jobs
- vii. Workforce Training & Retraining
 - 1. Allows flexibility for the state to make multi-year commitments for workforce training and retention support

(Wedding Dress Story)

- 3. E-Government Commission
 - a. As the environment in which we do business changes, so must the environment in which we conduct the public's business
 - b. With the advancement of technology in every part of the world, the expansion of e-commerce is moving at the "speed of light"
 - c. We have to keep up to be competitive, but we don't want to "just be competitive", we want to lead the nation in the field of technology
 - d. I have law school friends who said I would never learn to use a computer.

They thought it was an impossible task,
but I have proved them wrong

- e. I use the computer every day, and it has become a communication tool between my children and myself. (Of course they are a little better at it than I am.)
- f. The point is: technology is convenient. It is fast and everyone can learn how to use it.
 - i. Created a task force to explore and implement E-Government
 1. We want to make government more customer friendly
 2. We want to make it simple and easy to access
 3. We want Mississippi's E-Government to lead the nation, and serve as a model for other states.
- g. A strong research alliance, teaming industry with higher education, is a key element of economic development today
 - i. Dr. Angeline Dvorak has been named the President and CEO of MTI and the Institute for Technology Development

- ii. MTI promotes and coordinates science and technology-based economic development
- iii. ITD focuses on technology commercialization for the State of Mississippi
- iv. This alliance is all part of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative

The Initiative places a priority on access to technology, and the support of community and rural development, as well as programs for existing business and industry.

Closing

- Innovative program of economic incentives and programs are designed to improve Mississippi's positioning to compete in the New Economy
- Mississippi is taking a Targeted approach to Economic Development
- We want our people to prosper
- Now have the climate to make that happen in Mississippi
- All Mississippians must work as a Team

- Become America's State of Promise.