

Mississippi Delta Region  
Round Table Discussion  
Monday, April 10, 2000  
Viking Range Corporation  
4:30 p.m.

- Good afternoon and welcome.
- I would like to thank all of you for making the time to be with us this afternoon for, what we feel, is a very important meeting.
- A critical need exists in the Delta for renewal and revitalization of the economic, physical and social environments.
- While much of our nation, and part of our state, has experienced growth over the last decade, many Delta Communities have not participated fully in our newly found prosperity.
- By partnering with other states, and by working with local leaders, we can create community-based development and tackle the toughest challenges facing Delta counties today.

- With all of our efforts, we must create a renewal of the spirit, which allows us to build, to broaden and to bridge.
- We must find a way to share a newfound strength and a contagious determination that says, ‘we can do’ in the Delta, a strength that will make no allowances for ‘we tried.’
- Our people deserve long-term solutions based on responsible, long-range planning, and that is why we are gathered together today.
- We need your ideas and input about problems that the Delta is facing and solutions that you know, believe or think that might be available to us and that we have not tapped.
- This is not just about who we are and who we dare to become. Working together, we can develop a road map for the future of Mississippi that benefits all of us.
- Again, I thank you for your participation in this round table. I hope that you will be open and honest with us as you share your vision for the Mississippi Delta.