

*Remarks for the
Bureau of Narcotics Press Conference
December 4, 2002*

Good morning.

We're all aware of the destructive impact of drugs on our society, our communities and our people.

Our work to reduce, and eventually eliminate, that impact demands strong cooperation between law enforcement agencies at all levels. Across Mississippi, sheriff's offices, the Highway Patrol, local police, the Bureau of Narcotics, and the DEA all work closely to combat this deadly menace of drugs in our communities.

For each of these agencies involved in this fight, it is important to have strong leadership in place to manage the resources and lead the people necessary to win the fight. This leadership demands the best management skills, and that is the basis for my decision for a new director for the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

The Bureau is comprised of professional law enforcement officers who have dedicated themselves to upholding the law and going after those who would bring the scourge of drugs into the lives of our people. I thank them for their commitment, and assure them that I have always and will always support their efforts.

As the officers of the Bureau do their work around the state, it is important for them to have a director in place who possesses the management skills to focus their efforts, who understands the legislative process, and who has a track record of working with law enforcement officers.

The Bureau needs a director who will see the Bureau not for what it is, but for what it can become, and that person is Frank Melton.

Many of you are familiar with Frank Melton from his work with the Metro Crime Commission and with our youth in summer YMCA programs. He has an outstanding record of public service, and the experience that comes from that service will be well-utilized at the Bureau.

Through his work with children in Mississippi, he is keenly aware of the devastating effects of drugs on our kids and our communities.

Working closely with these kids has fueled his desire to rid this state of drugs and those who would profit from them. That awareness will translate into action at the Bureau.

Frank's skills extend far beyond what you see on television. He has the management experience and the leadership capabilities needed at the Bureau, and I am confident he will take on this position with respect for its officers and a commitment to stepping up the fight against drugs in our state.

I'm proud to introduce the new director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Frank Melton.