
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: KINNEY
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: CALLS TO LEGISLATORS ON PRISONS
DATE: 8/28/02
CC: FILE

WORK ON THE FOLLOWING:

Rep. Joey Fillingane: Lawrence Warren and the Hattiesburg docs need to start calling him. He is very non-committal and evasive. Wouldn't say yes or no. He had 2 questions: 1) What impact will the Sept. 3 ruling have on the bill? I told him none and reminded him that this bill has a cost savings of \$6 million; 2) Has Delta Correctional closed? I told him that it is in the process of closing and that negotiations are under way with Leflore County for them to use the facility.

Rep. Herb Frierson: We need somebody working on him. He said that he is waiting to see what the court says. I explained that the court's ruling will not really have any impact on the appropriation bill and that the bill saves \$6 million, but he said he's waiting. He seemed to want to get off of the phone.

Rep. Eloise Scott: I don't think it would hurt if some doctors at NMCC made some phone calls to her. She said that she was just confused on the issue the first time and that her vote wasn't a vote against the Governor. I explained that the bill saves \$6 million and that she should have received a letter from Rep. Malone encouraging her to support it. She just said she didn't know what she would do, but that she valued our opinion. (NOTE: My father-in-law in Tupelo says that Eloise is not running for re-election. Thus, she may not have anything to lose if she votes against the bill. I didn't think about this (I should have) when I was on the phone with her – sorry!)

THE GOVERNOR CAN COUNT ON:

Rep. Diane Peranich: Peranich said that as it stands now, we can count on her support. But, she wanted us to know that the Speaker hasn't called anyone into his office and no directives have been given on the vote or the logistics of the vote (who will move, offer any amendments, etc.). She also said that she understands the Caucus may be trying to pull something over, but she didn't have details. She said that Moody and company set McCoy up last time because Moody wants Speakership.

She said that no one knew that they were going to be granted absolution and not incur the wrath for voting against the bill.

She also said that she can vote for the med mal reform, but she is scared about the civil justice reform. She has heard that the Republicans are going to try to kill it with tons of amendments and that Mark Formby is going to lead the charge. She requested that the Governor keep the call as narrow as possible so that democrats will have some cover. She said for us to watch Jim Simpson because he is trying to play both sides of the fence on the tort reform issue – he’s putting changes in, but telling Paul Minor that he didn’t intend for the changes to be taken as they have been. But, again, she said that there has been no “Come to Jesus” meeting for directions/instructions to be handed out and that there needs to be one so that people will feel safe voting.

She also passed along that the Republicans on the coast are going to use the governor on tape and in the Sun Herald saying that the \$1 million was going to be split for social workers in Harrison County.

Rep. Tom Weathersby: He said, twice, for me to tell the Governor that the Governor can count on him. Weathersby said that he was ready to vote for the bill last time, but that he was the only Rankin County rep that was going to vote for it and Bennett Malone was saying don’t vote for it. He also said that he didn’t know that he would receive absolution for voting against it. But, he stressed that the Governor can count on him this time.

Rep. Hank Zuber: He said he’ll vote for it this time, since he voted for it the first time. He asked about the Governor’s position on med mal and I told him that the Governor was having a press conference as we spoke. He asked me to fax him any info from that and I told him that I could send him the press release if we did one.

Senator Scottie Cuevas: He said that if it saves money, he’s for it and I should know where he’s going to be. He said that he doesn’t understand what the argument is over anyway.