

*Remarks for the
Meeting with Labor Local 145
June 13, 2003*

- Recognize James Anderson

- Local 145 among the best in the nation
 - Working hard to make a difference in lives of members
 - Want to thank you for your commitment

- Your good work is part of the reason that Mississippi is taking on a different image
 - Image of a state moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - A state that's competing and leading in the global marketplace

- A state that's setting new standards in education and economic development

■ Impact of national recession

- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
- More than 2 million Americans out of work
- States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

■ Have to protect people in the short term while preparing for the long term

- Best way to do that is through investing in education and creating jobs

- Education is our first priority / has been for past three years since I've been in office
 - Public schools are our cornerstones of our communities and the key to the success of our economy.

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - “No Child Left Behind”
 - Computers in Classroom

- Mississippi's investing in education
 - Increasing investment while others are cutting
 - That is significant in light of national recession
 - Demonstrates our priority / our commitment

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- Another image of Mississippi that's changing
 - No longer a state that depends solely on agriculture / low wage jobs
 - We are aggressive about creating quality, high-paying jobs for our people

- Strong growth over past 3 years
 - 2,103 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 50,000 new jobs
 - Total business investment in Mississippi of \$14.1 billion

- Passage of Mississippi Rural Economic Impact Authority
 - \$10 million to aid economic development in rural areas
 - Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges

- We have been and will continue to create quality, high-paying jobs
 - Jobs in construction and beyond
 - I will fight to make sure unions have a role to play

- More work to be done / appreciate your help in making it happen
 - Your input is valuable

- We're looking to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- Thank you for the role you're playing in changing the image