
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MADER
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: TIME MAGAZINE INTERVIEW
DATE: 4/24/2000
CC: GOVERNOR
SIMMONS

Time Magazine will interview Governors Huckabee, Musgrove, and Sundquist in Memphis on Friday. For this interview, you have requested some talking points and possible questions for the Governor's preparation.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

This presidential initiative would bring more than \$159 million to the 219 counties in Mississippi river region. All three governors have held meetings on the issue and are supportive of the measure. The three governors have worked together in the past (all were Republicans). This meeting will serve as an opportunity to renew this commitment with Musgrove now at the table. Remember, Musgrove is the consensus builder—it may be important for him to welcome the other governors.

TENNESSEE'S MOVE TO RESTRUCTURE ITS TAX SYSTEM

Sundquist is facing a \$360 million revenue deficit and has attempted to address this during the legislative session this year. This is an opportunity for Musgrove to point to our state's fiscal conservative record and the proposed changes in the economic development incentives that are pending.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

With this meeting in Memphis, a likely topic of discussion will be urban sprawl. The outer areas of Memphis have grown significantly in recent years. Combined with the outgrowth casino counties, planned growth should be a priority for the Governors. This is another opportunity for Musgrove to point to the Telecommunications Commission as a vehicle for revitalizing downtown Jackson.

Dredging of the Sunflower River (see Saturday's Clarion Ledger)...

Hog Facilities—Mississippi's moratorium for issuing air quality permits has expired. According to Charles Chisholm, we have approximately 38 permits awaiting approval. These permits will proceed through a rigorous application approval process which remains in development by DEQ.

TOBACCO FUNDS

Mississippi's has devised a trust fund from which only the interest will be spent and that money will be used for health-related expenditures only. The Governor appoints a management board for the trust fund that is responsible for investing and approving expenditures.

TEACHER PAY

What can I add that hasn't already been said...other than I never said anything about \$68 million.

OTHER POINTS

When confronted with a question that needs to be avoided the line should be something like this:

In Mississippi, we are fighting the battles that need fighting...expanding economic opportunity to all communities, providing health insurance for our working families, and paying our teachers a deserving wage. These are the battles we need to fight.