

*Remarks for the
McComb Lions Club
January 14, 2003*

■ Recognize Lions Club President Tony
Nettles

- Last week in state of the state, talked about
effect of national recession
- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock
market
 - More than a million American out of
work
 - States cutting school week / releasing
prisoners / massive lay-offs

- Effects of national recession hit the just and the unjust
 - Recession has no respect for political parties

- Have to deal with the impact here in MS
 - Protect people in short term / prepare for long term

- Best way to do that is through education
 - Everybody benefits from good schools

- Comprehensive plan for education
 - Teacher pay
 - Test scores
 - Computers in Classroom

- Time to go to next level
 - Summer Start program / reduce drop-out rates and increase skills
 - Save the state millions

- \$200 million “brain trust”
 - Recruit best minds for research, development, workforce training

- Investments in education benefit every Mississippian, not just students
 - People want to live in good communities
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- Have called on Legislature to fund education in one comprehensive bill
 - Fund it at 62 percent of general fund
 - Time to prove to you that when it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- Have continued to create quality jobs during national recession
 - Nearly 50,000 new jobs in past three years / \$13.5 billion invested

- Building jobs across the spectrum
 - Nissan = \$1.5 billion investment / more than 5,000 direct jobs
 - MS also one of top 10 states for small business survival

- We have the right policies and programs in place to attract business / grow MS
 - Economic development is economic development
 - 2 people in a truck or 5,000 building a truck

- So much potential for MS and people of MS
 - Need to invest now to realize full promise and potential
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities