

Mississippi Bankers Association  
Saturday, May 20, 2000  
7:00 p.m.  
Sandestin Beach Hilton

Remember to stand up straight and use low tones.

## **Opening**

- 1.) Thanks for the introduction
- 2.) Funny short story

## **Message**

- A.) New Economic Development Plan
  - We need a coherent agenda for advancing our state economically
  - Currently have out-dated plans
  - Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development (co-chair Dwight Evans)
  - A first ever coalition of Mississippi's public and private sector leadership
  - Will be unveiling a new economic plan – special session
  
- B.) Jobs
  - We are not only focusing on bringing industry and business to Mississippi
  - Those businesses and industries must be able to provide jobs for Mississippians
  - Jobs that pay competitive salaries

- Keep Mississippians working, building their lives and building their families in Mississippi
- Quality of life

The two of the most important factors companies consider when relocating to a new area are:

1. A trained and qualified workforce
2. A good educational system to raise their children and provide an educated workforce for the future

#### C.) Qualified Workforce

- Businesses are looking for a well-educated, well-trained workforce
- Workforce training

#### D.) Education

- Campaign, Inaugural Address, State of the State Address – Raising teacher pay is the most critical issue facing the people of Mississippi.
- Commitment to our teachers (trying to recruit teachers and keep them teaching in Mississippi)
- Commitment to our children (preparing them for the future)

- Must provide the children of Mississippi with the tools they will need to succeed in today's marketplace
- Classroom Technology Task Force – place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom by the end of 2002

### **Closing**

- We are charged with the responsibility of setting the stage for Mississippi's future.
- Making a Mississippi that is better than today's Mississippi.
- Vision for Mississippi is one of great growth and prosperity.