

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: CATHY GRACE: ASKED TO PREPARE EARLY CHILDHOOD INFO
DATE: 7/8/2003
COPY: FILE

Dr. Cathy Grace called me at home last night to share the following. She said that Dr. Roy Ruby, Dean of the College of Education, phoned her last week to tell her to expect a phone call from Donald Zacharias, former MSU President, and to tell her to please provide Zacharias with the info that he requested.

Cathy said that Zacharias did call her. He asked her some questions about early childhood education and finally told her that he was a political consultant for HB and that he wanted specific early childhood issues that could be brought up. Cathy said that she told him some issues related to early childhood in general. I asked her if the issues were similar to those she presents in the attached letter to the editor and she said they were almost exact. Zacharias asked her if she could give him something in writing and she said she basically retyped the attached. (I'm working on getting her actual document.)

Cathy said that she is very bothered by this whole incident and she doesn't want it to appear as if she is assisting this person whom she abhors (her words) and is adamantly opposed to (her words again). She said that she is most supportive of your early childhood efforts and the financing project with Drs. Kagan and Brandon. She said that she works for the children, wants what is best for them and will answer questions regarding early childhood education, but that she despises the person that Zacharias called on behalf of. She also warned that Jane Boykin is a R in D's clothing and will try to stir this up, as she does with other early childhood issues.

I thanked Cathy for calling and telling me and told her that she would be a natural contact for anyone researching early childhood education in Mississippi. She asked me to let you know that she is not supporting HB and I assured her that I would.

I asked Cathy if Zacharias mentioned needing the info for any specific event, function or debate and she said no and that she doesn't know of any. I asked her if the Early Childhood Association has endorsed candidates in the past and she said no, but that they have held candidate forums, with Molpus and Fordice being the last. The Association's annual meeting will be in Hattiesburg the first weekend in October. I'll get logistical info on it so that we can get you there.