

*Remarks to the
Mississippi FFA Association
February 18, 2003*

- Recognize David Busby, Amy Tuck, Lester Spell, Dr. Henry Johnson

- Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities

- Priorities for MS / jobs and education
 - Appreciate FFA sharing in these priorities

- Education is the priority now
 - REPRESENTS HISTORIC ACTION
 - UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION
 - MISSISSIPPI IS MOVING FORWARD

■ Impact of national recession

- \$7 trillion lost in stock market
- Millions out of work
- States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

■ Effects of national recession touches everyone

- Recession has no respect for political parties
- Every state affected

■ 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
 - Funding education at 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raise
 - Addresses needs of higher education

- We are making a difference
 - Teacher pay from 49th to 19th
 - Computers in the Classroom/ NGA says first in the nation/ MS “at head of wave of technological innovation”
 - MS one of six states for “Following the Leaders”/ No Child Left Behind

- Leadership Summit/six priorities from early childhood to adult learning
- Princeton Review - #6 best testing in the nation

- The bills I signed two weeks ago fund education for one year, but the fight we fought and won, changes the way we fund education forever.

- Investments in education benefit every Mississippian, not just students

- These changes will affect every area of the community and every occupation, including agriculture.

- Over 4,000 young Mississippians were members of The National FFA in 2002
 - These students matter
 - They are the future of agriculture in MS

- Recognize that FFA has been making a positive difference in students' lives for 75 years
 - So many young people positively influenced by FFA

- FFA motto: LEARNING TO DO,
DOING TO LEARN, EARNING TO LIVE,
LIVING TO SERVE

- Motto is representative of what Mississippi's children are doing today

- We share a common goal of wanting our young people to be better educated, and this will result in more qualified individuals to serve in the job
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- Those are the results of good leadership
 - Those are the results our people demand and deserve

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there