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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** IHL'S EFFORTS TO OVERRIDE VETO  
**DATE:** 4/3/2003  
**CC:** FILE

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Bill should have shared with you David Potter's comments yesterday afternoon as to how the Legislature was responsible for the actual "education first" appropriation.

I'm attaching correspondence from DSU and Alcorn State personnel to members of the Legislature for your reference.

Bill should have shared with you David Potter's comments yesterday afternoon as to how the Legislature was responsible for the actual "education first" appropriation.

I've been told that Clyde Muse has sent a similar letter, but I haven't been able to obtain a copy yet. I'll forward it when I have it.

I also thought I'd share some of Andy Mullin's comments to me this morning regarding IHL's counting votes to override your vetoes. Although you suggested to Andy last night that he get out of town, he was in Room 204 this morning counting votes with Pam Smith and Charles Tisdale (USM). Andy and Lee Ann had a "discussion" in the hall, which she briefed me on, and he then motioned me out into the hall the next time he saw me in 204. A few of his comments:

- IHL didn't ask to be put in the middle of this. He later said that "the Governor put us in the middle" and later, "the Governor put us in the middle of this just like he has the past 2 years." I asked how he could say that when Capps was the one telling them to get votes to override and when the legislative leadership was using education as a threat tactic. He responded that IHL didn't have a choice when their appropriation chairman and vice-chairman told them to get votes.
- I told Andy it was hard to respect IHL's decision when they were stabbing the one person who has consistently fought for them in the back. I asked him where he thought the education appropriations would be if you hadn't pushed for education first and if you hadn't issued the challenge for the Legislature. He said that you were not solely responsible for that and that funding education first would not have

happened without all of the work that IHL had done before hand. He again said that they didn't have a choice when they were called in before Capps. I asked him what his response to you would have been if you had called them in and he couldn't answer me.

- Andy contended that he wasn't counting votes, rather that Pam just was , that he was headed home (NOTE: It is 11:15 and he is still here.) and that IHL hasn't been successful anyway.
- Andy said that IHL was doing what it thought best and I explained that they would have to live with their decision if cuts had to be made in October when you are forced to balance the budget. Andy said he wanted to write that threat down and I told him that it wasn't a threat, but that overriding the veto would not leave you with a cushion to offset cuts in October and that the law prohibited you from cutting any agency above 5% until everyone had been cut. I told him that the effects of overriding the veto might not allow us the ability to protect education.
- Andy said that I was naïve to think the Legislature wouldn't leave if the budget wasn't balanced. I told him he was naïve to think that there were enough votes to pull the education appropriation bills back up, that he had worked here and that he should know the rules better. I told him that the House and the Senate had both passed 1036 almost unanimously in its original form, which is our viable alternative.

Lee Ann and Andy's conversation was along these same lines.

David Sheppard told me yesterday that Capps wanted him to call the superintendents, but David wouldn't do it. He said he wasn't going to go against the one constant (you) for education. It is my opinion that K-12 has not taken any action to override; rather, community colleges and IHL have been our opponents.

I suggest you take this matter up at our next educational breakfast meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.