<div align="center">

SCRIPT
The Divide Reconsidered Conference

</div>

Conference Begins, 1:00. Governors panel goes until 2:00.

Setting: Governor Hodges stands at podium. Governors Barnes, Musgrove, and Lt. Governor Hager are seated on stage, along with Jim Flowers, moderator of the opening panel. An extra chair should be by the podium, and two extra chairs should be available for the next panel.

Governor Hodges:

Good afternoon. I am Governor Hodges of South Carolina and the current Chairman of Southern Growth Policies Board. I am delighted that you could be with us here today to discuss an initiative critical to the future social and economic well being of the South. This conference is the third in the TelecomSouth series of events that aims to facilitate the deployment and utilization of telecommunications by, and for, the citizens, institutions, and businesses of the South. In the future, Southern Growth hopes to participate in additional activities to spread these technologies throughout our region.

We live in an exciting time—a time when technology and telecommunications have the potential to improve the lives of every individual in the South. We can see what the ideal future might be like with these tools, where interactions between citizens, and between citizens and organizations, flow seamlessly and effortlessly, in areas such as education, medicine, citizenship, and commerce. Like so many things, however, the promise falls short of the reality. This is the so-called digital divide—the distance between those individuals already profiting, both personally and professionally, from utilizing technology and telecommunications, and those individuals who do not or cannot use these technologies.

This past year demonstrated yet again that the only constant in our lives is change. Surely the Internet is emblematic of change, as a freewheeling, dynamic network constantly in flux. Although the Internet represents a rather youthful technology, the notion of what the digital divide means has evolved, and out of the many evolving strands of telecommunications issues, today's conference concentrates on gaining *value* from such networks. How do states and communities benefit from telecommunications networks, how do they generate a return on their telecommunications investments, not just in terms of a monetary return, but as a benefit to society in general? We have invested in these technologies, because we have thought that we should, but now what? This conference will help answer these and other similar questions.

So let's get on with the conference, but before I introduce my fellow participants in the first panel, I want to thank several Georgians who served as catalysts for bringing this conference to Atlanta. First of all, let me acknowledge Jim Flowers, currently a special assistant to the Chief Information Office, the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia. He will be facilitating the Governors panel that opens the conference. Next, I want to acknowledge Jan Youtie of Georgia Tech. These two talented individuals are responsible for initiating this conference. Also, let me single out Helena Mitchell of the Georgia Centers for Advanced Telecommunications Technology for her efforts in making

the conference a success. Lastly, I want to thank the conference advisory committee members, listed in your program, who had a critical role in designing the content of today's conference.

Now let's meet my fellow officials on the panel. Governor Musgrove has shown a strong dedication to technology and economic development within his state. Lt. Governor Hager of Virginia, who was just appointed head of counter-terrorism in governor Warner's administration, has also demonstrated a deep commitment to technology. And it is no coincidence that we are having this conference in Georgia, a state known for its technology investments. Governor Barnes, as governor of the hosting state of Georgia, would you like to see a few words before we begin our panel?

Governor Hodges sits down and Governor Barnes talks for about five minutes. He then sits down and Jim Clinton goes to the podium.

Thank you, Governor Barnes. We open the conference by having these officials illuminate some of their state efforts toward addressing the digital divide. I am going to hand the mike over to Jim Flowers, who will facilitate the panel. If we have time, we will take a few questions from the audience. Jim, will you begin the first session of the conference?

Governor Hodges sits down, and Jim Flowers goes to the podium.

Jim Flowers: You have in front of you leaders of technology and telecommunications policy in the South. I have several questions that will get their views and opinions on best practices and policies in order to address the digital divide. First question…………………

Jim Flowers asks questions and facilitates responses by the panelists. If time allows, he will call on people in the audience for questions. We can run late by 15 minutes if things are exciting. The questions are guidelines—if other interesting topics come up, go with them. If we have time, Jim Flowers should ask for questions from the audience.

The panel ends with Jim Flowers asking for applause. Governor Hodges then goes to the podium. Officials leave the stage, and the panelists for the next session take their places on the stage. Scott replaces the table tents.