

*Remarks for the
Young Democrats
April 4, 2003*

- *(Story of lawyer on plane to DC)*

- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know
 - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - Competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - Setting new standards for education and economic development

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Princeton Review: 6th best testing system in nation
 - Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind” / USA Today article
 - 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - 62% of general fund

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- We gained the attention of companies around the world when we landed Nissan
 - Now more than ever, Mississippi is being visited by companies

- They are coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do
 - Site Selection magazine: Mississippi ranked as Top 10 location for new companies
 - One of top 10 states for small business survival
 - Expansion magazine: 4 Mississippi cities ranked in latest survey of 50 hottest American cities for expansion or location of facilities

- When businesses read these industry publications, they see that Mississippi has something to offer
 - They realize the image has changed

- You're helping change the image
 - Making the most of your promise and potential
 - Using your skills to help build Mississippi

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk

- It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- We're building that image because of effective leadership
 - Leadership that is committed to building Mississippi
 - Proven commodity to the people of this state

- Will Rogers: even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there
 - Mississippi is on the right track, and we're moving
 - Moving because of strong, committed Democrats
 - Let's keep it that way in November