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## **Musgrove Delivers the Weekly Democratic Radio Response**

### **Governor Musgrove Welcomes President to Mississippi, Discusses the Economic “State of the States”**

(JACKSON, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove of Mississippi will deliver the Democratic Radio Response to the President’s Saturday Radio Address.

In his radio address, Governor Musgrove welcomes President Bush to the state of Mississippi and highlights some of the dynamic steps he has taken to stimulate Mississippi’s economy during the national downturn; a downturn which has severely hurt states’ economies.

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### **TEXT EMBARGOED**

**until 11:06 AM Eastern / 10:06 AM Central, Saturday, November 1, 2003**

Good morning. This is Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove. Today, President Bush is on the campaign trail in Kentucky and in my state, Mississippi. Mr. President, welcome to Mississippi. But, while you’re here ever so briefly, I have a few things I wanted to bring to your attention.

Some people think of Mississippi as a state with cotton fields, racial strife, unemployment, and struggling schools. But that was the Mississippi of yesterday. Today in Mississippi, we have come together, across party and racial lines, to create opportunities for the people of our state.

As Governor and as a Democrat, I have focused on two issues - creating jobs and improving our schools. Working with our legislature, we passed a teacher pay raise so we could keep and recruit quality teachers in our schools and not lose them to neighboring states or to professions other than teaching.

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**(TEXT EMBARGOED until 10:06 AM Central, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003)**

Under my leadership, Mississippi is the first state in the nation to put an internet-accessible computer in every classroom. Our student test scores are on the rise and our schools are making real progress. And, if I'm fortunate enough to be re-elected on Tuesday, I am going to continue to dedicate myself to quality education for every child in Mississippi.

Mr. President, these are also tough times economically for the whole country. The unemployment rate nationwide is now at the highest level in ten years. Over 2.5 million manufacturing jobs have been lost and five million people are working part-time jobs just to make ends meet. Americans are working harder for less. Our country is on track for the worst job creation record since Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression.

Governors and states across the country are weathering the worst budget deficits since World War II. When the economy suffers, our nation's states pay the price, picking up the tab of unfunded mandates such as Medicaid and special education in our schools.

But here, in today's Mississippi, I have waged war against the impact of the national recession. We have worked hard here to create 56,000 new jobs. Mississippi is one of only two Southeastern states to have a net gain in jobs last year. And this year we are the only state in the nation to open an automobile factory. The new Nissan Plant in Mississippi will result in over thirty thousand good jobs for the people of my State.

I'm proud to say that under my leadership we've been able to do these things while balancing our budget and without raising taxes.

Mr. President, I know you are doing your political thing today. But, I did want to tell you, we are all behind our young men and women serving in Iraq. Mississippi alone has 4,500 men and women serving our country overseas. We hope and pray, as I know you do, they will be home safe soon. Mississippi has lost five young men in Iraq and we all honor their sacrifice.

America is indeed facing challenging times. And our leaders need to vigorously go about the business of uplifting our economy, creating jobs, improving education for our children, making prescription drugs more affordable and fighting for our troops. And they need to fight for these things as hard as they fight on the campaign trail.

This is Governor Musgrove. Thank you for listening and God Bless.

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