

TP Press Questions
February 14, 2003

- **House Passed Med Mal Insurance Bill Thursday/Docs in Oxford** – We solved it – we gave the legislature the solution and they are close to passing it. WE will provide access to health care for our people.

- **Ron Chris Foster** We are reviewing the supreme court decision and consulting with the AG's office and the defense lawyers. We will make an announcement after our review.

- **Voter ID**

- **Newton** – Unfortunately, This is another example of the administration's failure to respond to economic hardships. They have done nothing on the economy and have dragged their feet on education. They are ignoring their responsibility. As a result, the town of Newton is suffering terribly. It is crippling the town. That's why I am working hard to bring jobs to our people and fighting for our schools.

- **Administrative Procedures Act – (due wed.)**

- **Fee bill** – What we should do is focus first on the DA's and the State employees instead of the raising salaries of statewide politicians

- **Haley Barbour – Announcement Monday – Are you running for re-election?**
 - I'm focused on fighting for our schools and creating jobs for the people of Mississippi. We will deal with politics later. I will announce my decision at the appropriate time, however I don't think there will be any surprises.

- **Lisa McMurray – Moving to Mississippi – Is she going to run y our campaign?**
 - Lisa is leaving the Lt. Governor’s Office in Virginia and moving to Mississippi. As we have said, we look forward to having her here. She’s a dedicated professional.
 - I will have my announcement at the appropriate time.

- **Budget shortfall – DHS, Medicaid, MDOC**
 - Working with legislators
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- **DHS Board Bill**
 - I have full confidence in Thelma Britian as the new Executive Director. She has over 20 years of experience.
 - What DHS needs is greater flexibility and appropriate funding not more bureaucracy

- **DHS Social Workers**
 - We are working hard to find Social Worker to hire and have hired all qualified applicants.
 - The solution will be found with greater flexibility and appropriate funding for the department.

- **Banker Bill / Tort Reform**
 - We will follow this bill closely through the process.
 - The goal should be to strike a balance between protecting consumers and creating a good business climate.

- **Base Closure (Barry Rhodes) in Ed. Bill**

■ **DOC Bennett Malone Time for Time bill**

■ **Tax Commission – Governing Magazine**

- The problem is a management problem.
- Because of the effect of the national recession, all state agencies have had to work harder and smarter
- Signed a bill last year giving the Tax Commission more money to hire temporary workers. They did not use the money for that, they used it to buy equipment instead
- That is not smart management

■ **Ms. Rural Impact Authority**

- Rural Mississippi has been hardest hit by the national recession and NAFTA.
- The Rural Impact Authority will give us the ability to help existing business and attract new jobs to those areas that need the most help

■ **Toyota Plant going to Texas**

- It was a privilege to be considered for this project
- Our work to bring jobs to Mississippi and our efforts to put our schools first has brought worldwide attention to our state
- Companies around the world are realizing that Mississippi is serious about competing for jobs.
- In the face of a national recession we have created ...