

Clarion Ledger Article – 4-23-00

Wednesday, April 19, 2000 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> day of my administration. It was a great day to celebrate with friends, family, state employees, students, parents, teachers, legislators, business people and well wishers at the State Capitol.

What an exciting way to mark 100 days in office. I could not think of any better way to celebrate the day than to be able to share it with so many people who have made each and every day memorable and productive.

The 100-day mark is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and look to the future as we continue to build upon our progress. At this stage in our administration we have begun the process of developing a new economic development strategy, reconstructed an action plan and marketing strategy to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program, established the Task Force for Classroom Technology, which will place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom by December of 2002, and we have passed a teacher pay raise plan to raise Mississippi's teachers' salaries to the Southeastern Average.

I campaigned on raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average and on January 11 of this year, during my Inaugural Address, I said that I believed a teacher pay raise was the most critical issue facing the people of Mississippi.

Some people said it could not be done, but we did it. We did it because we refused to give up on our children and on our teachers. We did it by working together with the leadership of the House and Senate along with legislators, teachers, business people, and concerned individuals to pass a teacher pay raise plan during this legislative session.

I promised you that as your Governor, I would work hard to find solutions that would work for the people of the State of Mississippi, and with the hard work of many people, our efforts are paying off.

I said in my State of the State Address that we must set unprecedented goals and at every opportunity reach for unparalleled progress. We are doing just that, and will continue to work hard to find solutions that work for Mississippians.

We have made great progress during our first 100 days. We realize our potential, and I can promise you that this is only the beginning. We are looking forward to every single day of this administration, and every single day we will be working to fulfill the hopes and dreams of the people of Mississippi.