

*Remarks for the
MS 4-H Appreciation Luncheon
February 11, 2003*

■ Recognize:

- Tim Ford
- Travis Little
- Eric Barnes – Master of Ceremonies
- Dr. Joe McGilberry – Dir. Of MSU
Extension Service

■ Story of Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities

■ Impact of national recession

- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock
market
- More than two million Americans out of
work
- States cutting school week / releasing
prisoners / massive lay-offs

- Effects of national recession hit the just and the unjust
 - Recession has no respect for political parties
 - Every state affected

- Have to deal with the impact here in MS
 - Protect people in short term / prepare for long term

- Best way to do that is through education
 - Everybody benefits from good schools

- Comprehensive plan for education
 - Teacher pay
 - Test scores
 - Computers in Classroom

- Particular investment in higher education /
\$200M “brain trust”
 - Recruit best minds for research,
development, workforce training
 - Higher education has critical role in
economic development

- Investments in education benefit every
Mississippian, not just students
 - People want to live in good
communities
 - Good schools, good jobs, good
communities

- Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent
 - *HISTORIC ACTION THAT WAS TAKEN*
 - *UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION*
 - *WAS A HISTORIC DAY WHEN SIGNED EDUCATION BILLS*

- We have the right policies and programs in place to attract business / grow MS
 - Economic development is economic development
 - 2 people in a truck or 5,000 building a truck

- Have to create opportunities across the board
 - Rural areas hit hardest by NAFTA
 - Have to be smart and aggressive in creating jobs

- That's the driving force behind MS Rural Economic Impact Authority
 - Assistance to new and existing business
 - Training for people who have lost jobs

- As leaders in your own areas, encourage you to lead by action, not position
 - Encourage investment in education
 - Encourage investment in economic development
 - Prepare today for benefits tomorrow

- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- Have to continue investing in education
 - More computers in classrooms
 - Higher test scores
 - Better funding for higher education

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there