

*Remarks for the
BellSouth DSL Press Conference
July 3, 2001*

Thank you, John, and thank you for the commitment you and BellSouth are bringing to the people of Mississippi – a commitment to opening the world to thousands, no matter where they live.

The Digital Subscriber Line – “DSL” – technology is truly exciting. With this service coming to the smaller communities of our state, BellSouth is helping to improve the economic development potential for Mississippi – something which benefits us all.

I have watched as my kids sit at the computer and use it with the greatest of ease – and I’m still trying to get the clock to stop blinking on the VCR.

That’s one of the reasons this is so important, because it will open up the world of the computer and the internet to children who have never had access to them before.

I made a promise last year that Mississippi would have an internet-accessible classroom in every public school by the end of 2002, and would be the first state in the nation to do so.

We're on target to meet that goal. And, through our shared vision with BellSouth, we'll make it happen.

And there is so much more that comes with DSL. There are incredible opportunities in economic development. Imagine being able to apply for and receive a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality, without ever leaving your office.

Imagine the impact on rural areas when businesses are able to locate there because the technology is the finest available.

These are exciting times for technology and the impact it has on our everyday lives.

Through the work BellSouth is doing with its DSL service, people across Mississippi are feeling that excitement everyday.

John, I appreciate the work you are doing for the people and the potential of Mississippi.