

MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: "Building Bridge" event at Hattiesburg High School

I spoke with Lynne Houston Friday afternoon about this event. You will be participating in a live videoconference with Mayor Johnny Dupree. You will be speaking to students in Hattiesburg and France. This is the first time this has been done in Mississippi. The topic of your remarks will focus on your role as governor, and Lynne also asked that you speak to the event of 9/11 and how we have prepared our state for any future threats; she said this is a real topic of interest among the French students.

The students in France will be mainly high school students, and there will be some college aged students attending as well. French government officials, including three mayors, will be participating from their end. I have not been able to get a list of the names of the French officials.

BellSouth is donating \$5,000 to sponsor this event, as well as helping with the technology.

Attached are bullet points focusing on the 9/11 events, as well as a few points on your role as governor.

Role as Governor: (pulled from state “Blue Book”)

- Took office February 2000
- Governor is Chief Executive Officer of the State of Mississippi
 - Charged with executive direction and supervision of the state
 - Serve a 4-year term, and may be re-elected to an additional term
- As Governor, my responsibilities include:
 - Seeing that laws are faithfully executed
 - Supervising official conduct of executive officers
 - Commander-in-Chief of state militia
 - Appointing officials as prescribed by law

- Also responsible for:
 - Presentation of balanced budget to Legislature
 - Approval or veto of legislation
- I may also call special sessions of the Legislature when necessary
- May issue pardons, executive orders and states of emergency
- Oversee executive agencies
 - MS Development Authority
 - Division of Medicaid – health care for more than 700,000 Mississippians
 - Department of Human Services
 - Department of Corrections
 - Department of Public Safety / Mississippi Highway Patrol

Events of 9/11:

- Morning of 9/11, scheduled to present health care proposal
 - After attacks, brought together officials from Mississippi National Guard, Department of Public Safety, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, etc.
 - Two Mississippians, both from same small town of Durant, killed in attack on Pentagon – one on the plane, one in the building
- One big problem on that day was inflation of gasoline prices
 - Issued state of emergency to freeze prices to protect our people

- In days after 9/11, called together state and federal officials and put plan into place for response to future threats or attacks
- Mississippi one of the first states in America to put “Incident Command System” into place
 - All emergency responders working together through common information system to ensure safety and security of people of Mississippi
- In November 2001, also hosted domestic terrorism summit to further strengthen plans
- Mississippi Emergency Management Agency hosting bioterrorism exercises around state to prepare local communities
- Units of Mississippi National Guard called into active duty and served around the world

- Units still serving to fight war on terrorism
- One unit guarding Al Qaeda prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- Hope and pray we will never have another attack, but will be ready to protect our people