

*Remarks for the
Colonial Bag Announcement
October 29, 2003*

- Today is a homegrown Mississippi success story
 - I am extremely proud to be here with you today

- Mississippi is earning its future, reaping the rewards and is focused on its priorities
 - Priorities- Education and jobs
 - Improving the quality of life for all of its 2.8 million citizens

- As Governor these are the priorities I have focused on
 - Also the priorities that Clarksdale and Coahoma County are focused on

- Colonial Bag is a Mississippi Success Story

- Mississippi and Coahoma County were willing to work together to keep Colonial Bag here in Coahoma County

- To the city and county officials and citizen's of Coahoma County – your partnership with Colonial Bag and Mississippi is clearly demonstrating the path to success.

- It has been my promise and practice to do exactly what we have done here in Coahoma County to bring more jobs to you.

- When you were ready for the next step – we were glad to be right there with you.

- Today, I am **happy** to announce that I have awarded Coahoma County a Community Development Block Grant for \$337,000.

- 18 new jobs will be created from this partnership between the State, Coahoma County, the City of Clarksdale and Colonial Bag.

- Mayor Chuck Espy, Local Legislators, Supervisor Eddie C. Smith and the other Coahoma County Supervisors, Hartley Kettle, Hugh Jack Stubbs, David V. Drumheller, John Hamilton and the rest of the Colonial Bag Team – We were proud to work with you to make your dream a reality.

- Steve Hale and his entire economic development staff need a round of applause.

- I can remember a number of times they came to me to discuss what you were doing here in Coahoma County and we were ready to help.

- 18 jobs in Coahoma County is just as important as 5,000 jobs at Nissan in Canton

- By working together, we have accomplished a lot, but I don't have to tell you it hasn't been easy
 - Every state impacted by national recession
 - More than \$7 million lost in stock market
 - June 2003 report from Bureau of Labor Statistics: 9.4 million Americans out of work –NAFTA 41,000 to Mexico
 - Alabama, Texas and Florida are raising taxes and Arkansas is cutting services. Mississippi has refused to follow.

- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know
 - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - Competing and leading in the global marketplace

- Setting new standards for education and economic development

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education

- **Good schools = good jobs.**

- The best thing for a child to see everyday on their way to school is their parents on the way to a good job

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk

- It's an image Clarksdale and Coahoma County leaders are building

- I am proud to say that we have been right there with you as you provide leadership for

your future and a place where your children can stay instead of leaving the state.

- On thing I learned when I was first elected as a state senator – It does matter who’s governor. Mississippians need to have a governor who’s accessible to the people

- We will continue to work hard to be your partner, to create opportunities and to listen to your needs

- Throughout my career, I’ve put the people of Mississippi first and I plan to continue

- Thank you for working with us and for your commitment and dedication to building a better Mississippi