

*Remarks for the
Mississippi Constables State Convention
June 6, 2003*

- Recognize Phil Gann
 - Thank for opportunity to speak

- Want to begin today by thanking each of you for the work you do each day
 - Communities and citizens statewide benefit from your efforts

- There's something about being in a room with law enforcement professionals
 - Never feel this safe in a room full of politicians

- Believe we share some similarities in our work
 - All learned to disbelieve a lot of what we hear and most of what we see
 - Weekends planned for a year
 - Know the worst is about to happen the minute someone says, “Boy, it sure is quiet”

- We also share challenges in our work
 - You are charged with keeping the peace
 - Dangerous work / often unappreciated

- I'm fighting to help Mississippi reach its promise and potential
 - Challenging work during these economic times

- Mississippi is taking on a different image
 - Image of a state moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - A state that's competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - A state that's setting new standards in education and economic development

- We're taking on that new image and setting new standards during difficult times
 - Impact of national recession
 - \$7 trillion lost in stock market / 2 million Americans out of work
 - States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

- Working to protect people in the short term while preparing for the long term
 - Do that through investing in education, creating jobs, and protecting public safety

- Education is our first priority / has been for past three years since I've been in office
 - Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Computers in the Classroom
 - Funded education first and at 62% / historic action

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- Strong growth over past 3 years
 - 2,103 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 50,000 new jobs
 - Total business investment in Mississippi of \$14.1 billion

- We're looking to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- Foundation of good communities is strong law enforcement
 - I'm committed to keeping that foundation strong
 - Senate Bill 2385 – authorizes you to serve process issued by county, chancery or circuit courts
 - Pleased to sign this bill

- It can be hard to measure just how much you do for our communities across Mississippi
 - Results that come from building communities not always as obvious as cars rolling off assembly line at Nissan

- Your job is measured in keeping the peace
 - Families enjoying their neighborhoods
 - Kids safely playing outside
 - As a citizen of Mississippi and father of two, I want to thank you for doing this job

- We're all focused on making Mississippi what it can be
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities
 - Thank you for your help