

Gulfport Business Club
July 18, 2000
Holiday Inn, Gulfport
11:45 a.m.

You have 30 minutes to speak and 10 minutes for questions. I would suggest a shorter speech and longer Q and A.

Opening

1. Good Morning
2. Opening story
3. Talk about traveling to the Coast a good bit recently.
4. Mississippi is judged, and opinions are formed about our state because of the action of those of us inside the state.
5. Our people are our best ambassadors
6. We have the opportunity to do great things
7. We must develop those things in our state that make the quality of life for our people better.

Main Points

1. Economic Development
 - a. Top economic development strategists say when companies are looking for a place to locate or relocate they begin with a long list and start paring down from there

- i. Right now, Mississippi is not making the long list
- ii. On paper, we are not competitive
- iii. We want to make not only the short list, but we want to be chosen as the site

b. New economic development plan

- i. Cities/counties need more flexibility
- ii. Tax incentives
- iii. Makes be competitive
- iv. Input from people across the state
 - 1. Listening tours
 - 2. Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development
 - a. First ever public/private partnership

c. Policy Academy on Entrepreneurship

- i. Only 10 states selected
- ii. Mississippi will create the model to be used nationwide
- iii. Other governors recognize Mississippi as America's State of Promise

2. Highly-trained, technically-skilled and educated workforce is vital to future economic growth

- a. We must invest in our schools

- b. Elementary, Community & Junior College,
Colleges & Universities

- c. We must invest in our teachers
 - i. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern
average
 - 1. We will fund it. – A matter of
priority
 - 2. Must be a priority in budget.

- d. We must invest in our students
 - i. Keeping good teachers, teaching in the
classroom
 - ii. Classroom technology
 - 1. Computer in every classroom by
end of 2002 – AOL
 - a. Leading the nation
 - 2. Gates Foundation Grant- teaching
technology skills to teachers.
 - a. Only 1 of 7 states to receive it.
 - 3. Magnolia
 - a. Opens up access from
university and college libraries
to every public library in the
state.

- e. Better Schools = Better Jobs

Closing

1. We have been told we are 50th for so long
2. We are leading the nation in so many areas
3. We have to believe in our state and the
advancements we have made
4. Promote those advancements