

*Remarks to the
Jones County Industry Education Day
February 14, 2003*

■ Recognize

- Mayor Susan Vincent
- Mayor Tim Waldrup
- Supervisor Andy Dial
- Billy Browning, Chair, Economic Dev.
Authority of Jones County
- Dr. Ron Whitehead (Jones Cty. Jr.
College)
- The Howards (Billy and Linda Howard,
Michael Howard, Billy Howard, Jr.)
- Dr. Glenn McGee, Superintendent,
Laurel Schools
- Thomas Prine, Superintendent, Jones
County Schools

- Story of Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities

- Priorities for MS / jobs and education

- Meeting these priorities not always easy,
especially in schools

- Education is the priority now
 - REPRESENTS HISTORIC ACTION
 - UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION
 - MISSISSIPPI IS MOVING FORWARD

■ Impact of national recession

- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
- More than two million Americans out of work
- States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

■ Effects of national recession touches everyone

- Recession has no respect for political parties
- Every state affected

- Have to deal with the impact here in MS
 - Protect people in short term / prepare for long term

- Best way to do that is through education
 - Everybody benefits from good schools

- Comprehensive plan for education
 - Funding education at 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raise
 - Addresses needs of higher education

- We are making a difference
 - Teacher pay from 49th to 19th
 - Computers in the Classroom/ NGA says first in the nation/ MS “at head of wave of technological innovation”
 - MS one of six states for “Following the Leaders”/ No Child Left Behind
 - Leadership Summit/six priorities from early childhood to adult learning
 - Princeton Review - #6 best testing in the nation

- Investments in education benefit every Mississippian, not just students
 - People want to live in good communities
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- Those are the results of good leadership
 - Those are the results our people demand and deserve

- The bills I signed last week fund education for one year, but the fight we fought and won, changes the way we fund education forever.

- Gone are the days when we fund education the last week of the session.

- Gone are the days when our school children compete for funding with convicted felons in our prisons.

- Gone are the days when we shortchange our schools.

- Gone are the days when we shortchange our future.

- **MISSISSIPPI HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA**