

*Remarks for the  
Knight Line Products Announcement  
March 14, 2003*

- Recognize dignitaries / representatives of
  - MDA
  - Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance
  - Bolivar-Cleveland Chamber of Commerce
  - Bolivar County Board of Supervisors
  - Knight Line Products
  
- National recession impacting every state
  - 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

- Mississippi, especially the Delta, not immune
  - NAFTA has done damage here
  - We're working to change that
    - One job at a time
    - One business at a time
  
- One great tool for affecting change is Rural Economic Impact Authority
  - \$20M to help with economic development in rural areas
  - Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges

- Mississippi's potential not exclusive to metropolitan areas
  - Promise of our people is just as strong in rural areas
  - Fighting to bring quality jobs to every Mississippian
  
- Want to thank everyone involved in this project for joining in that fight
  - Today's announcement is good news for this area

- Mississippi-grown businesses are healthy businesses
  - Mississippi in top 10 for small business survival
  - We're fighting to keep that ranking
    - Fighting for businesses like Knight Line Products
  
- Economic development is economic development
  - Doesn't matter if it's two people in a truck or 5,000 people building a truck

- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
  - Good schools / good jobs / good communities