

*Remarks for the  
Mississippi State Lions Club 2003 Convention  
May 17, 2003*

- Recognize District Governor Donald Travis
  
- Appreciate opportunity to be here with you this morning
  - Even more, appreciate the service of Lions Clubs – both across the state and around the world
  - Efforts to provide eyeglasses and help with vision problems is making a difference for thousands around the world

- Know that May is “Recycle for Sight Month” for Lions Clubs
  - Also aware that May has been declared “Lions Family Month” by your international president (Kay Fukushima)
  - Appreciate your role in these events here in Mississippi
  
- We all share a common goal – making a difference
  - That’s been my focus since first taking public office in 1987

■ Priorities have focused on education, jobs, health care, public safety

- Each of these is important in ultimate goal of living up to our promise and potential
- We're making strong progress for Mississippi

■ Tremendous strides in education

- Teacher pay
- Computers in the Classroom
- Investing in education first / benefits all Mississippians

- Quality job creation during national recession
  - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities / 53,000 new jobs / Nearly \$15 billion invested through February of this year
  
- Sending strong message to rest of the nation and the world about Mississippi
  - Committed to our people and what they can do
  - Dedicated to building strong future for all Mississippians

- Believe there are four things you can do with your hands
  - Wring them in despair
  - Fold them in idleness
  - Clench them in anger
  - Use them to help someone
  
- Our focus should be on using them to make a difference
  - That's what I'm doing as governor
  - That's what you're doing as Lions
  
- Appreciate again your commitment to service, here at home and around the world
  - Best wishes for successful convention