

*Remarks for the
Dedication of Panola County Airport Terminal
August 26, 2002*

(recognize Leonard Morris, other dignitaries)

(tell story of traveling to DC; lawyer on plane
who didn't believe you were governor)

Whether it's one lawyer on a plane or one
thousand people who read an article in The New
York Times about what we're doing here,
people are learning that Mississippi is changing.

They're learning that we're doing business in a
different way.

They're learning that we're being recognized for our forward-thinking approaches to education.

We're doing great work for the state of Mississippi. Great things are happening in our state. We are capturing the attention of the world outside our borders because of the exciting things we've got going on, and I'm sure you will agree that it's good for Mississippi to be recognized for being on the cutting edge.

I love days like this, days when we move a great community and a great state another step forward in our growth.

This new airport terminal offers so much more than a larger space for travelers. It signifies the opening of a much larger door, a door that will be open for new business and new opportunities to come into this area.

With the increasing population growth in this area, you are in a strong position to compete.

Your proximity to Memphis and major transportation routes offers tremendous potential.

We're committed to building Mississippi and making sure it achieves its promise and potential. Our people deserve nothing less.

This same message applies to people in every state across our nation. If we are to build our states, our country, we must do it by creating jobs and building industry. We must do it by investing in our people through workforce training.

Even though we are in a national recession, backing off on our investment in economic development and workforce training would sap our strengths and cut our competitive edge.

That simply can't happen if we are going to succeed.

It was once said that “success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.”

I tell you this – we aren't letting go. There are too many opportunities out there, and too many opportunities for us to create, to ever think about letting go.

Believing “I must do something” solves more problems than saying “something must be done.”

You won't hear us say, “something must be done.” We live in America's state of promise. It is a promise too long unkept. That has changed.

Mississippi is doing more and doing it better than ever before. The momentum is there, and it is growing.

I am excited about the goals we've set for ourselves. I know you share those goals with me, and I look forward to reaching them.

Thank you.