

Political Animals Club of Little Rock  
Monday, September 25, 2000  
7:00 a.m.

They have asked you to talk about Delta developments, regional cooperation and political thoughts of the day. 20 minutes for speech and 20 minutes for q & a. Donna suggested that you keep it very light and fun. **Insert stories wherever possible.**

## Opening

1. Great to be in Arkansas & to have this opportunity
2. Story (whichever one would help them to know you best)
3. As sister states we share the Delta region

## Main Points

While much of our nation and our state have experienced growth over the last decade, many Delta communities have not participated fully in our newly found prosperity. If any portion or region of our state is faltering, then we all suffer. Mississippi must be strong and prepared for economic development in every corner of our state.

1. New E.D. plan just passed
  - a. Plan will help revive the Delta
  - b. Incentives for business and industry to locate in the Delta.
  - c. Comprehensive, long-term solutions

- i. Education – training and retraining
- ii. Flexible incentives
  - 1. improving basic infrastructure
  - 2. more accessible and accountable government
  - 3. On-TARGET, Advantage Jobs Program, Jobs Tax Credit Program, GAP Community Zones
- iii. Rural Development Division
- iv. Regional approach to enhance competitiveness (sharing resources)

## 2. Delta Regional Authority

### a. Based on the Appalachian Regional Commission

- i. Created over 30 years ago to address the chronic economic depression and poverty that existed in that region of the nation.
- ii. Successful
- iii. If it worked for the Appalachian Regional Commission, why couldn't it work for the Delta?

### b. With this Authority, we are taking action to make improvements that will make a difference in the quality of life available to

the people who live, work and raise their families in the Delta.

- c. Creates a culture that is ripe for growth.
- d. This is an opportunity for us to make things right in the delta.
- e. The Authority is an effort that is well thought out and is accountable
- f. It would be easy to stand on the sidelines and let everyone else make the decisions
- g. Must step forward and provide the leadership that steers the direction that we take for the people of the Delta
- h. What is good for the Delta is good for the entire state of Mississippi

## **Closing**

1. By partnering with other states, and by working with local leaders, we can create community-based development and tackle the toughest challenges facing the Delta.
2. With all of our efforts, we must create a renewal of the spirit, which allows us to build, to broaden and to bridge.
3. We must find a way to share a newfound strength and a contagious determination.