

Mississippi PTA Legislative Conference
Thursday, January 25, 2001
10:45 a.m.
Dept. of Education Auditorium

(Message: Education is our top priority)

Talking Points

- Educating our children is our top priority.
 - We must **Invest** in our children

- Our future depends on our children being successful and productive Mississippians.

- We can all work together to make this happen.

- **Press Conference at Rouse Elementary School**
in Brandon
 - I urged Legislators to support administrative leave for state employees attending parent-teacher conferences.
 - A parent's involvement in their child's education is vitally important.
 - Teachers will tell you how important it is to have parents who are informed and involved in their child's education.

- Their involvement will have a direct effect on their child's advancement, behavior and grades in school.
- **Teacher Pay Raise**
 - Last Spring we took the first step to our success.
 - We must remove the **5% revenue growth condition**
 - Show our teachers we are committed to them, like they are committed to our children.
 - Quality teachers + quality education = qualified students
- **Computers in the Classroom**
 - Partnership with AOL to provide all classrooms in MS with a computer by 2002.
 - Will be first in the nation to accomplish this.
 - Our children must be able to access and understand this technology.
 - This is the future. We must stay ahead and prepared.
- **Economic Development and Education go hand in hand**

- We cannot succeed in Econ. Dev. opportunities if our children and employees are not educated and trained.
- High Tech companies want high tech employees.
- Nissan is proof that we can succeed.

- Budget recommendations
 - We must keep up the momentum
 - Prioritize our budget and continue providing opportunities for Mississippians.
 - We cannot cut programs (such as education and economic dev.) that are essential to our success as a state.
 - The difference between our budget and the Joint Leg. Budget Committee's:
 - K-12 = \$45 million more
 - Comm. & Jr. = \$11.5 million more
 - IHL = \$23 million more
 - Our economy has slowed down, but we are not broke.
 - We have to prioritize.

- Partnerships
 - We must get involved.

- Organizations like the **PTA** are perfect examples of involvement to get something accomplished.
 - Committed and concerned parents are the key!
- **School-to-Careers**
 - Over 50 chapters across the state.
 - Parents, teacher and businesses working together for our children.
 - www.fastforwardms.com
 - A great website that anyone can utilize to learn more about opportunities.
- Nissan was the result of many local, state and federal representatives working together.
- Mississippian must work across political, geographical and racial boundaries in order to succeed.
- Internal battles must not hinder us.

(You may want to mention Appointing School Superintendents. Taking the politics out of the process, focusing on education, not being re-elected.)

- America's State of Promise
 - We must continue to show the nation and the world that Mississippi can!

- Making Mississippi a place where our children can live work and raise their families.
- They will not have to leave MS to find other opportunities.
- Many opportunities await MS; we have to make them happen.
- Thank You for your commitment.