

Remarks for
Hammond Hill Congress
July 25, 2003

- Recognize Robert King, Rev. Michael Minor, and the Dean of Hammond Hill

- Edward Everett Hale: “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.”

- Each of us has something to offer – to our families, to our communities, to our state

- This is the attitude we need to make Mississippi a better place to live, work, and raise families
 - Accomplished by continuing to make education our first priority

- Neither of my parents had a high school education
 - But they made sure we knew just how important and invaluable an education was
 - They taught us if we got an education that it would lead to good jobs

- February 2003 signed a comprehensive plan for education into law
 - Historic action
 - Investing in education/ 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raises
 - Funds universities and prevents tuition increases
 - Funds junior and community colleges (workforce training)

- We are sending the message that we mean business about education

- Mississippi is recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - No Child Left Behind
 - Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation

- Work has to continue beyond education, with focused economic development and growth to keep our best and brightest minds here in Mississippi
 - They are Mississippi's future
 - We want to give them a strong start / solid economic base
 - We've done that in past three years

■ Job creation

- Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
- Created 53,000 new jobs
- Capital investment of over \$15 billion

■ We are increasing investment while others are cutting

■ Not easy to do/ significant in light of national recession

- More than 7 million lost in the stock market
- More than 2 million Americans out of work
- States cutting school week/ releasing prisoners/ massive lay-offs

- Demonstrates priority/ commitment to better Mississippi

- We're making these advances because we're getting involved, we're working together
 - We're building good schools / good jobs and good communities

- Together we're changing the image of Mississippi
 - Image of people working in highly skilled, well paying jobs
 - Image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - Image of global companies looking for a place to do business in this great state

- Mississippi has its priorities straight
 - Good schools/ good jobs
 - Better communities/ better Mississippi