

*Remarks for the
MS 4H Horse Championship
July 17, 2003*

- Thank 4-Hers, volunteers, and parents
 - Thanks for commitment of time and energy
 - Vitally important to enrich and empower youth of Mississippi
 - Youth will become future leaders of Mississippi and the nation

- Great to be here with you today
 - This is one of the best things about my job
 - Meeting with young people like you

- 4H pledge mentions greater loyalty, larger service, and better living for your Club, community, country and world

- 4H motto: “Making the Best Better”

- Both embody spirit and attitude we all should have when trying to make Mississippi a better place to live, work, and to raise families

- This can only be accomplished by continuing to make education our first priority/ Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - “No child left behind”
 - Computers in the classroom

- We can't stop by just educating our children, there has to be continued economic development and growth to keep our best and brightest minds here in Mississippi
 - You are Mississippi's future
 - We have to leave you a state with a solid economic base

■ As Governor, that is what I am working for

■ Job creation

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

■ We are increasing investment while others are cutting

- Significant in light of the national recession
- Demonstrates priority/ commitment to a better Mississippi
- Good schools lead to good jobs and good jobs lead to better communities

- Image of Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - Image of people working in highly skilled, well paying jobs
 - Image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to literally bring the world to their desktops
 - Image of global companies looking for a place to do business in this great state

- It was once said that children are one third of our population and all of our future

- You all have a role to play in building our future
 - Continue to work towards making the best better