

I am here this evening to call a special session of the Mississippi Legislature, which is to be held June 29, 2000 at 12:00 noon.

Mississippi Highway Patrol and their surviving family members, state employees, our teachers benefit from House Bill 1281.

Understand what I am telling you...

The bill also benefits state employees and teachers, who have an option to take a lump sum retirement.

- This option encourages teachers to remain in the their careers for an additional three years.

We NEED these provisions, which is why I am only putting the legislative supplemental provision into the call.

I challenge the members of the Legislature to act quickly and in the best interest of the people of Mississippi.

And, we look forward to working with them to come to a quick resolution.

## *Q&A*

1. Why call this as a separate special session?

- We are calling this before the bill is enacted so that members of the Legislature have ample opportunity to address this issue; and,
- We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted from creating new jobs and developing economic growth, which will directly benefit the people of the State of Mississippi.

2. Will there be a special session on corrections?

- We are reviewing all options regarding the solutions to the overcrowding issue. We are in compliance for the first time in 15 years, and it is our intention to remain in compliance.

3. Have you spoken with the Lt. Governor and the Speaker about the call for the special session?

- Yes, both are aware that this issue needs to be addressed.

4. How much will this cost the taxpayers?

- \$30,000 per day, which is why I challenge the members to work quickly and in the best interest of the people of Mississippi.

5. Why did you not veto the bill? (Or, Why did you not sign the bill?)

- I did not agree with the legislative retirement provision, but I could not veto only this provision of the bill. The other provisions of the bill benefit state employees, highway patrol officers, and teachers.

6. Is this call a result of Lt. Governor Tuck's request?

- The Lt. Governor the speaker and I have the shared responsibility of leading this state.