

*Remarks for the
Time Warner Cable Teacher Mini-Grant Awards Luncheon
March 21, 2003*

- Recognize Bill Farmer, President of Time Warner Cable

- Important to recognize the commitment and creativity that teachers across Mississippi bring to the classroom
 - Those qualities make a difference in the lives of children
 - Those qualities are priorities in a successful education system

- Education must be first priority for MS
 - Making great progress
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Test scores up / accountability standards stronger than “No Child Left Behind”
 - Princeton Review: MS has 6th best testing system in nation
 - MS 6th in nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - Computers in Classroom

- Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent
 - MS first state in nation to fully fund education and fund it first
 - Other states cutting to the bone

- We're proving to the people of MS that we're serious about education
 - Making the investment now for dividends tomorrow

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

■ Job creation from January 2000 to February 2003

- 2,103 new and expanded facilities
- 50,253 new jobs
- Total investment of \$14.1 billion
(\$14,129,936,686, to be exact)

■ MS Rural Economic Impact Authority

- \$20M to help with economic development in rural areas
- Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges

- MS's potential not exclusive to metropolitan areas
 - Promise of our people is just as strong in rural areas
 - Fighting to bring quality jobs to every Mississippian

- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- Want to take a moment to talk about situation we're facing today with the war
 - We're committed to ensuring safety and security of people / property

- Role of Mississippi National Guard /
Reserves in the war
 - More than 4,500 of our citizen soldiers
called to active duty
 - They're serving on the front lines

- Need to keep them in our prayers, along
with the president

- Mississippi has so much promise and
potential
 - We're fighting to make the most of it for
our children and all Mississippians