

*Remarks for the
Tougaloo College 15th Annual Business Luncheon
February 28, 2003*

- Recognize Beverly Hogan, Harvey Johnson,
Leroy Walker, Reverend Larry Johnson
 - Welcome Ingrid Saunders Jones to
Mississippi

- Appreciate Ms. Jones' background in
education
 - Proud she is in Mississippi to see the
progress we're making here

- In the business world, establishing priorities
is a basic principle
 - More important than ever to set
priorities and stick to them
 - That's what we've been doing in MS

■ Impact of national recession

- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
- More than two million Americans out of work
- States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

■ Effects of national recession touches everyone

- Recession has no respect for political parties
- Every state affected

■ Have to deal with the impact here in MS

- Protect people in short term / prepare for long term

- Best way to do that is through creating jobs and investing in education
 - Everybody benefits from good schools

- Education must be first priority for MS
 - Making great progress
 - Teacher pay
 - Test scores
 - Computers in Classroom

- Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent
 - *HISTORIC ACTION THAT WAS TAKEN*
 - *UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION*
 - *WAS A HISTORIC DAY WHEN SIGNED EDUCATION BILLS*

- Budget is key issue of legislative session
 - Must budget based on real numbers, not on hope
 - Funding education at 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raise

- Particular investment in higher education / \$200M “brain trust”
 - Recruit best minds for research, development, workforce training
 - Higher education has critical role in economic development

- Time to prove to people of MS we're serious about education
 - Make the investment now for dividends tomorrow

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

- 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

- Economic development is economic development
 - Doesn't matter if it's two people in a truck or 5,000 people building a truck

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

- Have to continue investing in education
 - More computers in classrooms
 - Higher test scores
 - Better funding for higher education

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there
 - MS is on the right track, and we're moving