

MEMORANDUM

September 24, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Points on Hurricane Isidore

CC: Lee Ann, Renick, Phillip, Boyd

Should you decide to do the CNN interview, here are some talking points. I need to let the producer know the decision tomorrow morning. My cell is 942-7698.

Hurricane Preparations:

By this past Friday, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency was already putting emergency responders into place. Members of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) were putting their plans into action.

Coordination between MEMA, the Mississippi National Guard and other state agencies has been happening for the past several days. The American Red Cross and Salvation Army have also been working closely with us to prepare for evacuees.

State of Emergency:

I issued a state of emergency yesterday (Tuesday) to ensure all our energies and resources were focused on this impending storm. The top priority here is the safety and security of the people of Mississippi, and we are ready.

The state of emergency also provides consumer protection from those who would profit from disaster through price gouging. There have been some preliminary reports of increases in gasoline and hotel rooms already, and we simply won't stand for that.

We're going to do everything we can to protect our citizens.

I-59 Contraflow Plan:

Certainly, we'll do whatever we can to accommodate the citizens of Louisiana in case of an evacuation, but we also have a responsibility to the people of Mississippi. We will not put the lives of Mississippians at risk, and by law we must provide our communities with the resources they need to meet their needs at the local levels.