

MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: WLBT Noon Show, 9/23/02

CC: Lee Ann

You will be appearing as a guest on this first day of WLBT's new noon show. You are scheduled for about 3 minutes. According to Wilson Stribling, questions will cover topics including the special session, the DHS shortfall, the state shortfall, and the Toyota plant. Any Toyota questions offer a good opportunity to segue from the "it's our policy not to comment..." statement to a discussion about job creation.

Special Session:

The legislative process is slow, and it is ugly. Legislators have been here too long, but I still want to see a finished medical malpractice bill on my desk. There's a health care crisis facing the people, communities and doctors in Mississippi. The Senate needs to get back to the table, get to work, and get a bill to my desk as soon as possible. Failure is not an option when the health of our state is at risk.

DHS Shortfall:

DHS works hard to protect the children of Mississippi, and they need every available resource to fulfill this mission. I have brought in representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services to work with DHS and legislators to resolve the issues.

State Shortfall:

Like many other states, we are facing a serious budget shortfall. The combination of a sluggish economy and unrealistic revenue projections have held us back. We cannot continue to create high expectations about our budget and then see those expectations go unmet.

Toyota:

It's our policy not to comment on economic development projects, but I can say that we have been working hard to create quality, high-paying jobs for the people of Mississippi. We've created more than 30,000 new jobs in the past two years, and we are always working to bring more.

Story in Clarion-Ledger this weekend: MS one of top 10 states in the nation for small business survival. Ranking based on state's policies toward entrepreneurship and small business. Further evidence of good work.