

MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: "Arkansas Business" article

Mark Friedman with "Arkansas Business" (6,000 circulation, same as Mississippi Business Journal) in Little Rock is working on an article on the effect of gaming in Tunica County, ten years after its arrival. He has been to Tunica and talked with Webster Franklin (Tunica County Convention and Visitor's Bureau) and Bally's. He has not talked with anyone at the Gaming Commission yet, nor has he talked with any legislators.

His questions for you include: How has gaming helped or hurt the state? Is the revenue from the casinos better or worse than expected? For other states with budget problems, like Arkansas, is gaming the answer?

You have stated in the past, most recently on October 3, that you are opposed to the further introduction of gaming in Mississippi.

Suggested response: "The gaming industry has certainly changed the economic climate of Mississippi. I am always working to bring in good, quality jobs for our people, but I do not believe gaming is the solution to budgetary problems in any state."