

## MEMORANDUM

December 27, 2001

TO: Governor  
FROM: John  
RE: Press inquiries  
CC: Lee Ann

Grace Simmons at the Clarion-Ledger said they are working a national story about governors requesting \$4 billion from Washington to help with costs of security, public safety and emergency response following September 11. She wants to know if we were part of this request. I spoke with Bill about this; he said he was unaware of request from the state for assistance from Washington.

Suggested statement:

“We would welcome support from Washington in covering the costs of added security and public safety measures since the September 11 attacks. The security of the people of Mississippi is of paramount importance.”

Patrice Sawyer called about a weekend story she’s doing regarding DHS, specifically about legislation Rob Smith and Bobby Moody will be introducing to change how the leadership is put into place. Effective 2004, they want to create a board, chosen by the governor and the lieutenant governor, which would provide a list of nominees for executive director; the choice would be made by the governor. This board would also select department heads.

In talking to Bill, he said Rob Smith introduced a bill last session (SB 2503), which you signed, that created a study committee to look at ways to make DHS run more effectively. The committee was to submit a report to you by December 1, 2001; we still haven’t received a copy of the report.

Suggested statement:

“I supported legislation to examine the structure of the Department of Human Services. We are reviewing the proposed changes at this time.”

Next week, Patrice will also be looking for a statement regarding your budget recommendations.