

*Remarks for the
Delta Correctional Facility Bill Signing
March 5, 2003*

- Recognize Robert Moore (he's in Washington) and Leflore County Board of Supervisors
 - Representatives Willie Perkins, May Whittington
 - Senators David Jordan, Bunky Huggins
 - Sheriff Ricky Banks
 - Corrections Commissioner Chris Epps

- Last fall, tough decision was made to close Delta Correctional Facility
 - Leadership is action, not position
 - Part of leadership is making those tough decisions

- Must manage corrections in most efficient and cost effective manner
 - Important for Chris Epps to have flexibility
 - Use his experience and expertise

- After decision made, we worked closely with the Board of Supervisors
 - We wanted to reach an agreement
 - We were aggressive in working toward a solution

- The solution we reached was best for everyone involved
 - Resulted in great cost savings for Leflore County / approximately \$5 million
 - Win-win situation for county and state

- Just as important, this issue demonstrated good results that come with cooperation
 - Important for that cooperation to continue at all levels
 - Success comes through cooperation, not conflict
 - Local, county and state governments all benefit
 - Most importantly, the people benefit

- Pleased to be here today in Leflore County
to sign House Bill 1415
 - Officially authorize the transfer of
property at the Delta Correctional
Facility to the county

- *(sign bill, then offer opportunity for others
to make remarks and take questions)*