

Kids Voting MS Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
Friday, May 19, 2000
Isle of Capri/Crowne Plaza Resort
11:45 a.m.

You are addressing the teachers who administer the Kids Voting Mississippi curriculum in the Coast schools (approximately 80 schools will be represented) and representatives of area businesses who support the program through financial contributions and incentives for the students. This program teaches children the importance of voting beginning at a young age. They held a mock election this past November. You may want to reference it in your speech. The results of your election were 32% Musgrove and 42% Parker.

I. Greeting

- A. I'm glad to be here today. Spoke to you last year when I was running for the Office of the Governor.
- B. Mention the vote of the children involved with Kids Voting MS
- C. Front Porch Story

II. Message

- A. Education
 - i. Exciting to talk to a great group of teachers.
 - ii. Campaign, Inaugural Address, State of the State Address – Raising

teacher pay is the most critical issue facing the people of Mississippi.

- iii. Signing the bill – a step in the right direction for Mississippi
- iv. Commitment to our teachers (trying to recruit teachers and keep them teaching in our state.)
- v. Administering curriculum like Kids Vote MS
- vi. Teaching our children civic responsibility
- vii. Your commitment to our children is commendable (preparing them for the future)
- viii. Must provide our children with the tools they will need to succeed in today's marketplace
- ix. Today's marketplace is changing at such a fast rate
- x. The number of web sites today compared to 1993
- xi. Classroom Technology Task Force – place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom by the end of 2002.
- xii. We are equipping our children for success.

B. Economic Development

- i. Thank the business partners here today
- ii. Partnership between business and education is important
- iii. MEC's endorsement of the teacher pay raise plan
- iv. Businesses realize the importance of educating our children so that they can be prepared to enter the marketplace
- v. Better Education = Better Jobs
- vi. We are arming our children for the future so that they have the opportunity to get good jobs with competitive paying salaries
- vii. Allows them to live, work and raise their families in Mississippi.
- viii. New Economic Development Plan
- ix. Old plan is stale
- x. Created a public/private partnership
 - Dwight Evans, MS Power
- xi. Unveil a new Plan at a Special Legislative Session

c. Closing

- i. My vision of Mississippi is great
- ii. We have been labeled as being in 50th place for so long that we have almost started to believe it.
- iii. That is unacceptable.
- iv. We are well on our way to making great changes for the people of the state of Mississippi
- v. This is not a job for one person
- vi. We must do it together
- vii. We need your involvement