

*Remarks for the
“Meth in America: Not in Our Town”
May 29, 2002*

Good morning. Administrator Hutchinson, we are proud to welcome you to Jackson and to Mississippi. Your presence here underscores the priority you place on helping us fight the scourge of drugs that attacks our communities and our people.

I want to also thank Commissioner David Huggins of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and Don Strange, Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, for their good work in the war against drugs in our state.

The problems of drug use here in our state affect more than just those using the drugs. The problems affect everyone one around them – the innocent family members and strangers, children, and the community at large. We’re fighting to bring an end to these problems, for the good of everyone involved.

Administrator Hutchinson has remarked that methamphetamine “affects everybody in the community,” and one of the main challenges in fighting this terrible drug lies with the traffickers who specifically target rural areas. For a state like Mississippi, we are seeing all too often the impact of these traffickers.

Because methamphetamine is more often sold between people with social ties than among strangers on the street, the task of stopping the flow at a direct source is more difficult.

However, we are committed to doing just that – and with the aggressive backing of the DEA for our own Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, I am confident we will reach our goal.

There is too much at stake for Mississippi. Our people – our children – have too much promise and potential for it to be wasted through meth or any other of the drugs that are available in our communities.

Administrator Hutchinson, you're taking on a massive and daunting challenge, and I pledge to you our best efforts to overcome it. As you continue with the "Meth in America: Not in Our Town" campaign, I want you to know we will be working here. "Meth in Mississippi" is something we don't want to hear about anymore – and that day is coming.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here with you this morning, and I wish you the very best in this campaign.