

Mississippi Transportation Conference
Tuesday, October 31, 2000
9:00 a.m.
Grand Casino Tunica Events Center

Opening

- Good Morning
- I am pleased to be here today with Senator Trent Lott, Mr. John Horsley & Mr. Eugene Cleckley

Main Points

1. Budget
 - a. Priorities
 - i. We are making sure that Mississippians have strong schools, quality health care and safe communities
 - ii. We have made our people's priorities – our priorities
 - iii. Good education, quality health care and public safety top the list

- b. For the first time, the Governor presented his budget to the Committee at the beginning of the process
 - i. I have taken a progressive approach to budgeting that includes more accountability and fewer excuses.
 - ii. I have given the Committee a complete budget that is accountable and meets the needs of our people
 - iii. A plan of action to implement the budget
 - iv. Focused on the greatest areas of need in our state.
- c. We must stabilize our budget
 - i. 8.25% growth rate – too optimistic for FY'01
 - ii. We have to be responsible in our spending
 - iii. Maximize federal funds
 - iv. Focused on providing quality services for the people of MS while placing an emphasis on efficiency
 - v. Enjoy a Quality of Life right here in Mississippi.

Closing

- We want our people to prosper

- Now have the climate to make that happen in Mississippi
- All Mississippians must work as a Team
- Become America's State of Promise.