

*Remarks for the  
Montfort Jones Memorial Hospital Visit  
March 19, 2002*

I am always glad to be able to help a hospital! Today is a great day for Monfort Jones, and for the people of Kosciusko and Attala County.

This check for nearly \$300,000 means Monfort Jones Hospital is going to be able to complete improvements to its energy system.

We're investing in our communities and our people. We're doing what's needed to keep our health care facilities open and running for those who need them. And, we're making sure those facilities operate at a high standard.

This investment we're making today is an investment in health care, it's an investment in economic development, it's an investment in our people.

These are investments we have to make to compete, and we're going to fight to make sure we're always able to compete.

The people of Mississippi need and deserve the very best health care we can provide, and I will not settle for anything less. We are working to make Medicaid work better, with more flexibility and less legislative restraints on the work we need to do.

The health of our people is part of the foundation of our success as a state. I want to make sure that foundation is strong.

The future for this state is strong, but only as strong as we can keep it. To be successful, we have to be strong mentally and physically.

I know we can do it, and I look forward to working with you to make it happen.

Thank you.

