

*Remarks for the
Mississippi Prosecutors Association
April 23, 2003*

- Recognize Philip Weinburg
 - Thanks for invitation to be here

- Mississippi is taking on a different image
 - Image of a state moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - A state that's competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - A state that's setting new standards in education and economic development

- We're taking on that new image and setting new standards during difficult times
 - Impact of national recession
 - \$7 trillion lost in stock market / 2 million Americans out of work
 - States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

- Working to protect people in the short term while preparing for the long term
 - Do that through investing in education, creating jobs, and protecting public safety

- Education is our first priority / has been for past three years since I've been in office
 - Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Princeton Review: 6th best testing system in nation
 - Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind” / USA Today article
 - 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - Computers in the Classroom

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- Another image of Mississippi that's changing
 - No longer a state that depends on agriculture / low wage jobs
 - We are aggressive about creating quality, high-paying jobs for our people

- Strong growth over past 3 years
 - 2,103 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 50,000 new jobs
 - Total business investment in Mississippi of \$14.1 billion

- We gained the attention of companies around the world when we landed Nissan
 - They're coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do
 - Site Selection magazine: Mississippi ranked as Top 10 location for new companies
 - One of top 10 states for small business survival
 - Expansion magazine: 4 Mississippi cities ranked in latest survey of 50 hottest American cities for expansion or location of facilities

- When businesses read these industry publications, they see that Mississippi has something to offer

- They realize the image has changed

- We're looking to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- Foundation of good communities is strong law enforcement
 - I'm committed to keeping that foundation strong
 - Senate Bill 2794 – increase pay of judges, district attorneys, legal assistants
 - Pleased to sign this bill

- I want to continue working with you to protect the people of Mississippi and strengthen our image

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- It's an image of a state with effective leadership / proven commodity