

*Remarks for the Pharma Pac  
Opening Ceremony  
October 27 , 2003*

- Today is a homegrown Mississippi success story
  - I am extremely proud to be here with you in the Kemper County Industrial Park
  
- Mississippi is earning its future, reaping the rewards and is focused on its priorities
  - Priorities- Education and jobs
  - Improving the quality of life for all of its 2.8 million citizens



- It has been my promise and practice to do exactly what we have done here in Kemper County to bring more jobs to you.
  
- We were happy to grant you the first ARC Flexi-Planning Grant.
  
- When you were ready for the next step – we were glad to be right there with you.
  
- Mike McGrevey, Senator Sampson Jackson, Supervisor Johnny Whitsett and the other Kemper County Supervisors and to the entire Pharma Pac Team – We were proud to work with you to make your dream a reality.

- Steve Hale and his entire economic development staff need a round of applause.
  
- I can remember a number of times they came to me to discuss what you were doing here in Kemper County and we were ready to help.
  
- Phase I with 46 jobs and now Phase II will provide up to 220 jobs over the next two years.
  
- 220 jobs in Kemper County is just as important as 5,000 jobs at Nissan in Canton

- By working together, we have accomplished a lot, but I don't have to tell you it hasn't been easy
  - Every state impacted by national recession
  - More than \$7 million lost in stock market
  - June 2003 report from Bureau of Labor Statistics: 9.4 million Americans out of work –NAFTA 41,000 to Mexico
  - Alabama, Texas and Florida are raising taxes and Arkansas is cutting services. Mississippi has refused to follow.

- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know
  - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - Competing and leading in the global marketplace
  
- Setting new standards for education and economic development
  
- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
  
- **Good schools = good jobs.**

- The best thing for a child to see everyday on their way to school is their parents on the way to a good job
  
- 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 DeKalb and Kemper County leaders are building
  
- I am proud to say that we have been right there with you as you provide leadership for

your future and a place where your children can stay instead of leaving the state.

- On thing I learned when I was first elected as a state senator – It does matter who’s governor. Mississippians need to have a governor who’s accessible to the people
  
- We will continue to work hard to be your partner, to create opportunities and to listen to your needs
  
- Throughout my career, I’ve put the people of Mississippi first and I plan to continue

- Thank you for working with us and for your commitment and dedication to building a better Mississippi