

*Remarks for the
"Read n' Ride" Rally
May 9, 2003*

- It is great to be here tonight
 - Amazed and excited about what these students have done
 - Took on the challenge of reading half a million books with energy

- This challenge says a lot about these students
 - They are willing to work to make the most of their God-given talents
 - They appreciate what they can learn from reading
 - Most importantly, they can take an obstacle and turn it into opportunity

- Challenge also says a lot about their parents and teachers
 - Strong positive influence on their education
 - That influence will stay with them

- We've worked hard to do the same for them and every child in Mississippi
 - Teacher pay
 - Computers in the Classroom
 - Leader among states in preparing for "No Child Left Behind"

- Improvements in education are good for our kids and every Mississippian
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities
 - That's the vision for Mississippi

- Want to build our future based on what our future can be
 - That future is represented by these kids
 - Represented by students like Charisma Houston and Khanh Nguyen

- Earlier said that these kids were taking an obstacle and turning it into opportunity
 - Tonight, their opportunity is here
 - Opportunity on wheels / new bikes

- Congratulations to you all