

*Remarks for the  
Democratic Soiree  
March 9, 2002*

POINTS:

- Basic beliefs of the Democratic Party
  - Equal protection under the law for every American
  - Fair pay for honest labor
  - Highest quality public education for our children
  - Best stewardship of God-given natural resources

- Those beliefs key in my administration
- State of State address in January – 4 key points
  - Security
  - Jobs
  - Health Care
  - Education
- Since taking office, over 21,000 jobs created
  - \$6.5 billion invested in MS
  - Nissan / Hyundai – who could imagine MS ever competing for them

- Jobs about food on table / warm bed at night
  - About self-respect / self-confidence
  
- Health care
  - Medicaid and role in serving 650,000 Mississippians
  - Our children / seniors / disabled depend on Medicaid
  - Need more flexibility / less micromanagement from Legislature

- Education
  - Teacher pay raise – lifting salaries from 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in nation
  - Computers in Classroom – access to technology
  - MS leader in national board certified teachers
  - MS recognized for forward-thinking approaches to education

- Security
  - World has changed since 9/11
  - MS responded on that day – MEMA,  
National Guard
  - Soldiers of MS National Guard still  
serving proudly around the world
  
- We've done all the above because of  
vision for better MS
  - Persistence
  - Good work can't be less than our  
best

