

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor
FROM: PK AND JS
RE: AP Ed Board interview
DATE: 1/03/2002

Budget:

- Education is the priority in your budget
 - 62 percent of funding for education
 - fully funds MAEP/teacher pay raise
 - \$200 million “brain Trust”
 - We’ve invested in buildings; time to invest in people
 - If we shortchange education, we shortchange the future
- What comes out of state capital impacts people more quickly than what comes out of D.C.
 - Budget should reflect priorities/your budget does that
 - Legislative budget built on unrealistic hopes and unrealistic numbers
 - Learned at an early age the importance of only spending what you can afford – experience of mother raising family / working way through college
- Can’t afford to settle for the status quo

Frank Melton:

- Bureau of Narcotics needed someone with management and leadership skills
 - Melton has them
- Bush appointment of John Snow at Treasury
 - Snow’s background in running railroad company (CSX)
 - Bush appointed because of ability to “communicate policy”
- Law doesn’t require law enforcement background at bureau
- People of MS not satisfied with war on drugs
 - This isn’t the fault of the agents/best and brightest in the nation
- Melton will be capable leader/has ability to inspire
 - Sees the agency not for what it is, but what it can be
 - Won’t settle for the status quo

DHS:

- Thelma Brittian has over 20 years experience in the agencies and has worked her way up.
- I am confident in her ability to lead during this transition.
- I will name a permanent director at the appropriate time.

AMY TUCK:

- Decision to switch was a matter of political preservation
- Would have faced strong opposition in democratic primary

TRENT LOTT:

- Statement at Thurmond's birthday was unfortunate choice of words
- Certainly Lott and Thurmond recognize policies would have failed
- Wrong to make the statement
- Hope statement doesn't hurt Mississippi or our efforts for a better quality of life for our people. We hope the focus is on the progress we have made in education and jobs.

TIM FORD:

- The Speaker has served the state with distinction for 20 years.
- I respect his decision to not seek re-election and I wish him the best.
- However, we must not let the race for a new speaker distract us from our goal of putting our schools first.

WHERE MS IS HEADED:

- For too long, MS has been 48th, 49th, and 50th
- In order to change that we must be focused on fulfilling our commitment to our schools and our children. Education must be a priority for our state.
- We have made progress:
- Computers in the Classroom
 - NGA confirms MS first in nation with Internet –accessible computers in every public school classroom (more than 30,000 classrooms)
 - NGA: MS “at the head of the wave of technological innovation”
- Test scores are up
 - Princeton Review ranked MS testing 6th in nation
- Teacher pay – moving from 49th to 19th in nation
- More high school graduates going to college/ 62%
 - 6th highest in nation according to SREB
- More than 300 teachers achieved national board certification this year
 - MS in top ten in the nation in # of board certified teachers
 - MS first in nation to offer higher pay for board certification
- Recognized as leading competitor in economic development
- Nissan plan = \$1.5 billion investment/5,000 direct jobs
 - Nissan expanded before plant even complete
- MS in top ten for small business survival
- 47,000 new jobs/27,000 through expansion of existing business
 - \$12.5 billion in investment
- All this accomplished because we refuse to settle for status quo.
- By prioritizing education, we have been able to create 47,000 new jobs during a national recession.

RE-ELECT:

Currently we are focusing our efforts on making certain that education is a priority. Fully funding education is the foundation that makes everything else work. We have made a commitment to our children and our schools and we must live up to that promise. There will be plenty of time for politics later. Right now, I'm going to continue fighting to make a difference for Mississippi; the people of this state want and need someone fighting for them, and I'm glad to be there for them.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SQUANDER THE PROMISE AND POTENTIAL OF MS BY SETTLING FOR THE STATUS QUO. THIS ONLY DIMINISHES THE DREAMS OF THE NEXT GENERATION.

WE RECOGNIZE THERE ARE OBSTACLES. THE CHALLENGE COMES IN TURNING THEM INTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI. THOSE WHO ARE COMFORTABLE WITH THE STATUS QUO TURN AWAY FROM THE CHALLENGE. WE'RE NOT TURNING AWAY.