

1. What do you think about the Gore/Bush issue?

It is important that we, the people of this nation, put aside our differences and come together in support of our President. It is vital that we come together, as one people, and work together in the best interest of our people.

2. What are your feelings about the issue over changing our state flag?

It is now in the hands of the State Legislature to decide what course of action will be taken on the State Flag. I firmly believe we should have a referendum vote of the people so that every Mississippian's voice is heard.

3. Has being Governor been an enjoyable job thus far?

It has been an exciting first year. Being Governor is a 24 hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week responsibility. We have made accomplishments in education, health care, economic development and public safety, and we will continue to work to find solutions to the challenges our people face throughout our administration.

4. Do all Governors ever have meetings together? If so, what are some of the subjects discussed?

The Governor of every state belongs to the National Governor's Association. The NGA hosts an annual meeting and a mid-winter conference for all Governors. This gives us the opportunity to discuss issues including education, economic development, health care and public safety during open forums and idea exchanges. By working together we can help other states and we can learn from their challenges and successes.

5. What are you doing to bring more publicity to Mississippi?

By making a positive difference in the quality of life opportunities we provide for our people, we are bringing national and worldwide attention to Mississippi. Raising teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average, which brings Mississippi from 49th place to 19th place in teacher's salaries let's people outside our state's borders know that we are serious about education. The decision of Nissan to locate its newest manufacturing plant in Mississippi lets the world know that Mississippi is open for business. We continue to

look for ways that we can find solutions for the challenges we face because we want to create the quality of life for our people that allows them to live, work and raise their families right here in Mississippi.

6. What kind of jobs are you trying to bring to Mississippi?

Through the development of a new economic development plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, we have built the foundation to bring new, high paying jobs to the people of Mississippi.

7. What role did you play in getting the Nissan plant placed in Mississippi?

By making dramatic changes in our economic strategy, we made it possible for Mississippi to compete successfully. The Governor's office worked closely with Senator Trent Lott, J.C. Burns and the staff of the Mississippi Development Authority, the State Legislature worked together to secure the Nissan project. We worked together, with a common goal, which was to make Mississippi competitive, and we did just that.

8. What kind of educational programs do you plan on implementing in the public schools?

We have taken one of the largest steps forward for the state in the area of education by passing legislation to raise teacher pay to the Southeastern average. This was a milestone in our goal to become one of the top rated states in education. This legislation also included strong accountability plans for our schools. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom of every school in the State of Mississippi. This spring, we will place more than 6,000 computers in our students' classrooms, and are giving them the educational tools they need to be successful.