

TP Possible Press Questions
February 5, 2003

■ **Dean Kirby Med Mal Insurance Bill**

- The real issue is access to health care for the people of Mississippi
- That's why I called the special session last summer
- The Senate Bill is very similar to what I proposed last summer and will provide a solution to the immediate crisis

■ **Ms. Rural Impact Authority**

- Rural Mississippi has been hardest hit by the national recession.
- The Rural Impact Authority will give us the ability to help existing business and attract new jobs to those areas that need the most help

■ **Haley Barbour – Organizational Meetings – Are you running for re-election?**

- I'm focused on fighting for our schools and creating jobs for the people of Mississippi. There will be time later for politics.
- I will announce my decision at the appropriate time, however I don't think there will be any surprises.

■ **DHS Board Bill**

- I have full confidence in Thelma Britian as the new Executive Director. She has over 20 years of experience.
- What DHS needs is greater flexibility and appropriate funding not more bureaucracy

■ **DHS Social Workers**

- We are working hard to find Social Worker to hire and have hired all qualified applicants.

- The solution will be found with greater flexibility and appropriate funding for the department.

■ **Banker Bill / Tort Reform**

- We will follow this bill closely through the process.
- The goal should be to strike a balance between protecting consumers and creating a good business climate.

■ **Base Closure (Barry Rhodes) in Ed. Bill**

■ **DOC Bennett Malone Time for Time bill**

■ **Tax Commission – Governing Magazine**

- The problem is a management problem.
- Because of the effect of the national recession, all state agencies have had to work harder and smarter
- Signed a bill last year giving the Tax Commission more money to hire temporary workers. They did not use the money for that, they used it to buy equipment instead
- That is not smart management

■ **Toyota Plant going to Texas**

- It was a privilege to be considered for this project
- Our work to bring jobs to Mississippi and our efforts to put our schools first has brought worldwide attention to our state
- Companies around the world are realizing that Mississippi is serious about competing for jobs.
- In the face of a national recession we have created ...