

CONFIDENTIAL

Monday, May 12, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. Mansion

Interview with John O'Dell, LA Times

John O'Dell with the Los Angeles Times arrived today. After your interview, he is meeting with Nissan at the plant tomorrow from 9 until noon. He is interviewing the Mayor of Canton, other local business people regarding how Nissan has affected their lives/businesses.

"The Nissan \$1.4 billion investment was a direct result of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. This program, developed under my leadership, is one of the nation's most aggressive new jobs programs. The investment by Nissan sends a strong message to the world that Mississippi is serious about creating quality jobs."

Nissan

- Nissan - \$1.4 billion investment
- More than 5,300 direct jobs
- 25,000 indirect jobs
- Announced expansion prior to the opening
- Most technologically advanced production line in the world, testament to our workers here in Mississippi
- Automotive Suppliers – 25 and counting – across the state, Hattiesburg, Vicksburg, Forest, Saltillo, Grenada, Holly Springs, Greenville, Verona, Olive Branch
- Passage of Advantage Mississippi Initiative in first year / most aggressive economic development package in nation
- *Site Selection*: MS one of top ten locations
- MS one of top ten states for small business survival
- January 2003 issue of *Expansion Management* magazine: 4 Mississippi cities (Jackson, Gulfport, Biloxi, Pascagoula) ranked among America's 50 hottest cities for expansions

Education:

- Teacher Pay Raise – From 49th to 19th when fully implemented
- First state in nation to place Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom / confirmed by NGA
- Historic precedent of 2003 session – Invest in education first / increasing investment in education while other states are cutting; 62% of budget
- Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation
- Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind”, 6th state approved
- 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
- Early Childhood Task Force