

Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
Thursday, December 21, 2000
12:00 p.m.
The Isle of Capri

(Topic: Economic Development)

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- (Thank Stephanie Hutchins for her introduction)
- It is a pleasure to be here today in Natchez
- Wedding Dress Story

Main Points

1. Advantage Mississippi Initiative
 - a. Old plan was outdated with “stale” incentives
 - b. New plan makes MS more competitive with other states trying to attract new business
 - c. To attract new, high-paying jobs to MS
 - i. MS is now on the short list of states being considered
 - ii. MS has a competitive advantage because of incentives: (to name a few)

1. Tax credit incentives
 2. Workforce training and retraining
- d. Since plan was approved by the Legislature in August, MS has been selected by one major company
- i. Nissan Motor Company
 1. Their investment in MS means more jobs for our people
 - a. 4000 new jobs
 - b. 26,000 spin-off jobs
 - c. \$930 million investment in the State of Mississippi
- e. It is also further recognition that we have the quality workforce, workforce training programs and commitment to business growth that it takes to be competitive and successful
- i. A vote of confidence in the people of our state
- f. We must continue looking for more companies to locate in MS
- g. Nissan is only the beginning
- h. AMI is aimed at helping all 82 counties
- i. Incentives in the plan help entice companies to move to counties that have lower unemployment rates
 - ii. Everyone can benefit from this plan

- iii. We must work together with all agencies, public and private, to create more success in MS
- i. Getting to this point has been a team effort on all levels
- j. Because of the hard work of many individuals and agencies, MS is poised to make huge gains in creating quality jobs, expanding the resources of existing MS businesses and attracting the interest of national and international companies
- k. We have worked hard enough in 12 months of our administration to put MS on the map for a large company to consider us for a possible locations site
- l. Now our job is spreading the word that MS has the right incentives and the right workforce to help make companies successful
- m. Good jobs and a good quality of life make a positive difference to our state.

Mississippi has set a new precedent, paying attention to the needs of our people and to the needs of our state.

2. The Budget

- a. We have submitted our budget to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- b. It places a priority on economic development, education, healthcare and public safety.
 - i. The people's priorities.
- c. We must continue to fund these areas, if we plan to succeed.
 - i. The success of economic development relies heavily on our states educational system, healthcare opportunities and public safety
 - ii. Companies will locate to MS, if their employees can enjoy a good quality of life here
 - iii. They can!
- d. Our plan budgets \$10 million more than the JLBC for economic development
 - i. The state has to continue marketing, if we plan to attract more companies
- e. We have given the JLBC a plan of action to implement these changes in MS.

By forming common objectives and by seeing beyond the politics of self-imposed borders and finding consensus, MS can compete successfully

against our neighboring states and against countries around the globe.

3. Showing Leadership

- a. We are creating the right climate for economic growth by improving infrastructure and institutions, establishing rules and incentives that encourage productivity and implementing positive, long-term processes.
- b. When we talk about infrastructure, we must be mindful that bringing transportation resources to a company's door means more than simply providing a way to move physical goods.
- c. Infrastructure efforts must also focus on the transportation of high speed data with broadband Internet access provided in concert with expanded physical transportation resources.
 - i. Working with MCI WorldCom to provide broadband Internet access to every community in MS
- d. We must go about it in the right way.
 - i. By working together
 - ii. By building consensus
 - iii. By getting rid of our own agendas

iv. By working for the good of our people

Closing

- We will continue to sell the state
- Look for new opportunities to bring additional higher paying jobs to the people of our state
- We want our people to build their lives and raise their families in Mississippi
- Now have the climate to make that happen in Mississippi
- Success will take leadership, vision and a solid direction
- The people of MS have our pledge to make their quality of life better
- America's State of Promise