

National Guard Association of Mississippi  
Saturday, April 7, 2001  
9:30 a.m.  
Grand Bayview Hotel & Casino – Biloxi

(Message: 15-20 minutes, we have the opportunity to make a difference in Mississippi and to make positive changes)

## **Opening**

- Good Morning
- (General Lipscomb will introduce you)
- (Story)

## **Main Points**

### **1. Opportunities to Prioritize**

- a. Mississippians now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
- b. More opportunities in:
  - i. Education
    1. The cornerstone of our success.
  - ii. Economic Development
    1. Nissan and groundbreaking.
  - iii. Healthcare
  - iv. Public Safety
    1. You – The National Guard are a top rate group.
    2. The best at what you do.
- c. These are our priorities.

- i. We must use these as guidelines when deciding what to do for the people of Mississippi.
  - 1. Because these are their priorities.
  - 2. Use to guide our budget decisions.
- d. Education and economic development go hand in hand.
- e. A state must have trained employees for potential new businesses.
  - i. High-tech companies must have high-tech employees.
  - ii. We are investing in good jobs for our people
    - 1. Nissan
      - a. Is only the beginning.
      - b. The AMI gave Mississippi the competitive advantage.
    - 2. Supplier opportunities
      - a. Creating thousands of spin-off jobs for Mississippians
      - b. Potential for 26,000 for all of Mississippi.
- f. Give our people the opportunity for an even **better** Quality of Life
- g. Mississippi must invest.
  - i. The key is prioritizing and investing our money in the right places.

ii. We want to be more competitive.

## **2. Promoting a more Positive Image of our State**

- a. Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.
- b. How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects:
  - i. Economic development,
  - ii. Education,
  - iii. Tourism.
- c. We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- d. Remove obstacle that hinder our success.
  - i. Remove the barriers.
- e. We can make a difference on April 17<sup>th</sup>
- f. The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.
- g. We must not hinder our progress in any way.
- h. If something has the potential to keep MS from new business or as a tourist destination, then we must work to remedy that problem.
- i. We put the spotlight on Mississippi throughout the nation and world with the

Nissan announcement, but there are more opportunities waiting for us.

### **3. Budget**

- a. We must be responsible with the people's money.
- b. I must keep the budget balanced in good times and challenging times.
- c. They deserve and demand that of state leaders.
- d. Last year, the legislature
  - i. Overextended and
  - ii. Gambled with our budget
- e. In order to have an honest figure to work with, our budget should be:
  - i. Honest, Straightforward and Fiscally sound
- f. We need correct baseline figures for the budget
  - i. We will start next year's budget \$85 million in the hole.
- g. This year, our state is growing at less than 1%
  - i. We should not budget next year's growth based on 3.7%, like the legislature proposed.
  - ii. The nation's economy is at a standstill.

- iii. Our rate of growth, along with half the nation is sluggish.
- iv. We cannot build our budget on hope
  - 1. We must be realistic.
- h. Using these inflated figures to build our budget for the upcoming year, will cause us to cut more money from our agencies, colleges and universities, and schools next year.
  - i. We will have to grow at 6% in 2002 to make up for the shortfall and the budget projections.
- i. We are budgeting on quicksand.
- j. The budget problem will escalate into a budget crisis!
- k. We urged the legislature to lower the estimated rate of growth from 3.7% to 1%.
- l. We should be honest with our people and make the adjustment that bases our rate of growth on a real number, if not:
  - i. We are misleading our people.
- m. We must restore credibility and common sense to Mississippi's budget.

### **Closing**

- Mississippi is headed forward.
- It takes everyone working together to move our state forward – locally and statewide.

- We are not going to turn back the clocks and disrupt our progress.
- We want more great opportunities for the people of Mississippi.
- We want our children to have the opportunity to live, work and raise their families here.
- Everyone plays a role in our success.
- Working together we can and will make it happen.
- The people of Mississippi deserve that commitment.
- The children of Mississippi deserve that commitment.
- Our future depends on everyone working as a team in Mississippi.
- Making plans now for an even better Mississippi will ensure that future generations continue to succeed in our state.