

*Remarks for the
Nissan Expansion Press Conference
June 24, 2002*

Thank you, Emil, and thank you to the entire Nissan team that's here with us today. It has been a pleasure working with all of you, and we are looking forward to a long and successful partnership with Nissan in Mississippi.

I also want to thank Lieutenant Governor Tuck, Speaker Ford and the Legislature again for their quick action this past Friday. We all share a common commitment to the growth of Mississippi, and our investments in economic development are a measurement of that commitment.

I'm proud to say our commitment is strong.

When we gathered in this rotunda two years ago to announce Nissan was coming to Mississippi, it sent a strong message around the world. It was a message that Mississippi could compete at the highest levels of economic development, that we have a quality workforce ready to go, and that the state isn't the same as it used to be.

It was a message that Mississippi is a good place to do business.

Today, that message is being reinforced.

The Nissan plant has risen quickly out of the ground in Madison County. Construction on the facility is ahead of schedule and under budget. I would venture to say we are just as eager for that first vehicle to roll off the line in Canton as Nissan is...

With the addition of the Nissan Altima to the production line in Canton, we will have another benchmark to aim for – and our commitment is to complete the expansion ahead of schedule and under budget as well.

I said last week that Nissan's investment in Mississippi has been good for them, and our investment in Nissan has been good for us. This expansion will bring another 1,300 jobs to the Canton facility, and as a result, more jobs will be created statewide through suppliers and support industries.

We have been working hard to both find and create opportunities in Mississippi, and this opportunity was a good one. I've always believed that opportunities are not lost; there will always be someone to take the ones we miss.

We weren't going to miss this opportunity. It means too much to our people and our future.

Emil, Dave – thank you for your belief in Mississippi. We are proud to be your partner in building a successful future for Nissan and for our state.

The message is going out to the world again – Mississippi is open for business!