

Wayne County Chamber of Commerce  
Monday, March 5, 2001  
7:00 p.m.  
Waynesboro City Auditorium

(Message: 20 minutes on economic development opportunities)

## Opening

- Good Evening
- (Dr. Terry William will introduce you)
- (Story for NGA meeting last week. Mention how other Governor's praised Mississippi's accomplishments this past year, how we are in the national spotlight with Nissan and the Majesty of Spain exhibit)

## Main Points

1. Opportunities
  - a. Mississippians now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
  - b. We are working to provide as many as possible.
  - c. Opportunities in:
    - i. Education
    - ii. Jobs
  - d. Opportunities for a **better** quality of life
  - e. We have opportunities to invest:
    - i. Invest in education for our kids

1. Teacher pay raise
    - a. 49<sup>th</sup> in nation to 19<sup>th</sup>
  2. Computers in the Classroom.
  3. Accountability plans for teachers and schools.
  4. National Board Certified Teachers
- ii. Invest in good jobs for our people
1. Incentives from AMI
    - a. Training and re-training
    - b. Tax credit incentives
    - c. Works for all 82 counties
    - d. A marketing tool for MS
  2. **Nissan** is proof that we can succeed and attract more companies to MS
  3. Supplier opportunities
    - a. Over 2,200 applications sent to Nissan
    - b. Over 1 million hits to the website
- f. Invest – the money is there.
- i. The key is prioritizing and investing that money in the right places.
  - ii. **KEEP** the vision of the state!
- g. Don't look at budget as an obstacle
- i. Look for opportunities

- ii. I must keep the budget balanced in good times and in challenging times.

## 2. Budget

- a. We are taking a responsible approach to the slowdown in the economy by affecting a slowdown in budgeting and spending.
  - i. We must be fiscally responsible.
  - ii. Mississippi has more money now, than we ever have.
- b. Mississippi is not broke.
  - i. Our economy has been up, so eventually it must slow down.
  - ii. 29 other states are experiencing this slow down in their economy.
- c. Our budget reflects our people's priorities
  - i. Education
  - ii. Economic development
- d. We must look for innovative ways to bridge our budget recommendations, whether we use:
  - i. AMS settlement funds
    - 1. For one time expenditures
    - 2. We have access to this money now
  - ii. Rainy Day funds to keep education on track.

1. \$50 million is at Governor's discretion
2. Already used \$15 million

(\*\*We must continue to support our state's heart and soul, her people\*\*)

- e. Education is our top priority
  - i. A strong education system is vital to all future successes for the people of our state.
  - ii. Our success in economic development depends on our continued success and advancement in education.
  - iii. High tech companies need high-tech employees.
- f. Economic development
  - i. In order for MS to remain competitive, we must continue to support programs that give our people the opportunity for more, new, high-paying jobs.
  - ii. For years we have been quietly investing in economic development and education, and now we are beginning to reap the benefits.

iii. Rewards of this long-term investment are here.

### 3. Mississippi's Image

- 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: economic development, education, tourism, etc.
- c. We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- d. Remove obstacle that hinder our success.
- 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.

## **Closing**

- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- Everyone plays a role in our state's success.
- We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.
- America's State of Promise