

CONFIDENTIAL

Revised for Barbara Powell Interview, AP – April 25, 2003, 10 minute interview

National Story – WorldCom/Nissan - bragging rights previously about WorldCom, Fortune 500 company HQ here.

Did it leave a void? How big a deal is it? What do we brag about now?

She's talked to Bob Rohrlack, Senator Lott, Senator Hillman Frazier, Richard White, John Horhn.

Here's a quick skinny on Bob's comments: She asked him to contrast the 2 companies – She said MDA had testimonials of WorldCom, stopped doing that, took off the web site, now MDA focusing on Nissan. Bob stressed about Nissan, what's happening in May, WorldCom still important, disappointed that they are moving, net more jobs, working closely with Capellas. He's being very cooperative and supportive. She tried to get him to say we are glad Worldcom is going away, Nissan a better project – Bob said no, not true - Both companies are important to us.

WorldCom/Telecommunications Industry:

- We are certainly disappointed that WorldCom has decided to move their headquarters to Virginia.
- I recently met with Michael Capellas. He reassured me of WorldCom's commitment to Mississippi and despite this most recent announcement, it plans to maintain a significant presence in Clinton, even adding nearly 100 jobs in the near future.
- The past year has been devastating for the company, its employees and its shareholders.
- Michael assured me that WorldCom is healing and on the right track to emerge from this situation. It's clear the company is doing the right things to rebuild its financial situation and restore public trust in the company.
- He also assured me of WorldCom's commitment of operating with the highest ethical standards.
- Most recently, the WorldCom headquarters in Clinton was somewhat a formality, in that most of their senior management team was based in Virginia. While this may seem at the moment a great loss, in the long term future of Mississippi, we will continue to work with World Com to build on the 100 additional jobs, and perhaps even greater numbers as their financial strength grows.
- Let's not forget the other leading telecommunications companies we have in the state. Cellular South, based in Jackson is the largest privately owned wireless company in the nation. A major division of AT&T Wireless, SunCom was built in Jackson. Air2Lan is making waves in wireless broadband and should emerge as a major player in that industry.

Nissan

- Nissan North America \$1.4 billion investment
- More than 5,000 direct jobs
- 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

Bragging Rights (definitely does not stop with Nissan)

- Job numbers (she's heard them before but it doesn't hurt to plug again)
- Howard Industries, Laurel
- Northrup Grumman Ship Systems, Pascagoula – Expansion 2,000 new jobs – stealth ship technology
- Alcoa – Hernando \$16 million investment to expand
- EOH Energy – Greenville - \$58 million investment to develop an ethanol processing facility
- East Mississippi/West Alabama Jobs Alliance