

*Remarks for the
Calsonic Groundbreaking
October 4, 2001*

Thank you, Jimmy. It's another great day in Mississippi as we move another step closer to the realization of the announcement we made last fall about Nissan coming to Mississippi.

Today's groundbreaking for Calsonic is just a part of a large picture that is coming into focus for Mississippi and its people – a picture of well-paying jobs and the growth of a new industry in our state.

I am proud of the work that was done to make this day possible. Because of the Advantage Mississippi initiative passed last year in a special session and the hard work of a lot of people, we are here today.

The Nissan project was one of the top economic development projects in the country last year, and we brought it home to Mississippi. Not only did we get it here, we did it in record time.

The normal timeline for a project of this magnitude is about eighteen months. From our first contact with Nissan to the day we announced the project was only five months.

That sends a tremendous message to the rest of the country and the world – Mississippi can and will compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

In July, we announced the first round of Tier One suppliers for the Nissan plant. Today, less than two months later, we are turning dirt for the construction of one of those suppliers.

CalsonicKansei North America's Vicksburg plant will produce exhaust system parts, catalytic converters and motor vehicle frames for the Nissan plant now rising out of the dirt in Canton, Mississippi.

The jobs that will come with the construction and operation of this facility will have a great, positive impact in Vicksburg and Warren County – and the effects of that impact will carry across the state.

It's been said that you can't plow a field by turning the dirt in your mind. By the same token, you can't build industry by just thinking about it.

We haven't just thought about it in Mississippi. We've rolled up our sleeves and gone to work – and today we are seeing the results of those efforts.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I am proud to welcome Calsonic to our great state. We are America's state of promise.