

05/09/02

Chamber Statement Request

- 1. Gayle Lee – CBS Network Radio, NYC** **1-888-227-8900**
- 2. Adam Hochberg, NPR** **202-513-3348**
- 3. Pam Chatman, WABG, Greenville** **662-332-0949** *Live at 6:00 p.m.
Request, Call in at 5:55.*

In the middle of a national recession, we are working very hard to bring new jobs to Mississippi.

Tomorrow, I am going to Japan for the sole purpose of bringing more jobs to Mississippi. Our trip will focus on companies who have recently selected Mississippi and companies who are ready to expand. This mission is part of our aggressive economic development policy.

Mississippi is on the move. Our exports rose 30 percent last year, more than any other state in the first half of 2001.

Yesterday's action by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is outrageous, inappropriate, and irresponsible. Basically, what they are doing is nothing more than political blackmail. The U.S. Chamber should worry about the national economy and the national recession's effect on Mississippi and not the other way around.

If the US Chamber really cared about Mississippi, they would work to help our economy – not lead a boycott. *No one wins in a boycott.*