

CONFIDENTIAL

Friday, June 13, 2003 – CNBC Live Interview at NWN
Staff – Lee Ann Mayo

Economy, Nissan, NYC Picnic, AL/MS

NISSAN

- The Nissan \$1.4 billion investment was a direct result of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative that we passed in August of 2000.
- This program, developed under my leadership, is one of the nation's most aggressive new jobs programs.
- The new Nissan plant is the most technologically advanced production line in the world, which is a testament to our the strong workforce here in Mississippi
- The investment by Nissan sends a strong message to the world that Mississippi has the resources for industry and is serious about creating quality jobs.

ECONOMY

- The Rockefeller Institute of Government recently released a report citing the national recession as the #1 reason that states have seen declines in revenue. We have been able to balance the state's budget without raising taxes or cutting services.
- Fiscal relief is important and welcome, but we cannot always depend on help from Washington. States must be willing to step out and take action

AL/MS

- Yesterday in Montgomery, Governor Bob Riley and I signed an agreement that will allow Mississippi and Alabama to compete for projects together along the Mississippi/Alabama border.
- Governor Riley and I are committed to crossing state and party lines with the goal of making a difference for the people of our states.
- We are going to cooperate in a dedicated effort of economic growth and we are going to change the way business is done in the south and in America
- Mississippi and Alabama are coming together to work toward a common goal of creating quality jobs for our people. We are aggressively pursuing every opportunity.

- In addition to our Advantage Mississippi Initiative, we recently passed a rural jobs program, the Rural Economic Impact Authority

NYC PICNIC

- The NYC picnic is a great time for current and native Mississippians to get together. It's an amazing site to see.
- We are also in New York to talk about opportunities and strong workforce in Mississippi.
- We will discuss why Mississippi is a great place to do business.

Nissan Background:

- Nissan - \$1.4 billion investment
- More than 5,300 direct jobs
- 25,000 indirect jobs
- Announced expansion prior to the opening
- Automotive Suppliers – 25 and counting – across the state, Hattiesburg, Vicksburg, Forest, Saltillo, Grenada, Holly Springs, Greenville, Verona, Olive Branch
- Passage of Advantage Mississippi Initiative in first year / most aggressive economic development package in nation
- *Site Selection*: MS one of top ten locations
- MS one of top ten states for small business survival
- January 2003 issue of *Expansion Management* magazine: 4 Mississippi cities (Jackson, Gulfport, Biloxi, Pascagoula) ranked among America's 50 hottest cities for expansions

Education:

- Teacher Pay Raise – From 49th to 19th when fully implemented
- First state in nation to place Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom / confirmed by NGA
- Historic precedent of 2003 session – Invest in education first / increasing investment in education while other states are cutting; 62% of budget
- Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation
- Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind”, 6th state approved
- 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
- Early Childhood Task Force