

*Remarks for the
Delta Summit Press Conference
July 5, 2001*

Good morning. This morning, we had the initial meeting of the Delta Summit Steering Committee. I have assembled this committee to discuss the development of the Mississippi Delta.

I invited 37 of the best minds from this region here today to begin our work. The charge to the committee is simple – examine the most pressing needs of the Delta, develop a comprehensive plan to address those needs, and help promote the region, its people and its resources.

As I said, today was our first meeting and I look forward to the ideas that will come out of future meetings.

There are so many issues on the table for discussion regarding the Mississippi Delta. Education... economic and workforce development...housing...infrastructure... health care.

If this region, with its natural resources, deep history and strong people is to succeed, then we must develop a plan of action for that to happen.

We've shown that Mississippi can compete.

We've shown that Mississippi can hold its own against any state when it comes to attracting new business. We did that with the Nissan plant just last year.

And we can do it again and again.

As a state, we're making progress in education and economic development and all the issues I mentioned earlier.

However, we cannot allow any one region to be slighted. We will lift our great state up as a whole through our work and bring the people with it.

We'll be glad to take questions.