

*Remarks for the
DP of Mississippi Announcement
December 13, 2002*

Mayor Carter, thank you. It is a great day to be in Summit, Mississippi!

It's a great day because we're seeing another community that has worked hard to turn an obstacle into an opportunity.

It's a great day because we're seeing the results of a partnership between municipal, county and state government.

It's a great day because new jobs are coming to Summit.

Everywhere across this state – from Summit to Senatobia – we are working hard to bring quality jobs to the people of Mississippi. And, the hard work is paying off.

We've seen 47,000 new jobs come into the state over the past couple of years, 27,000 of them through the expansion of existing industries.

We've had more than \$12.5 billion invested in the state and its people.

Why do you think companies are investing here? I'll tell you why – it's because we have the best workers, the best minds, and the best state for doing business. Mississippi is competing on the national and international level like never before, and we're setting a new standard for doing business.

We are definitely open for business. From the Nissan plant, with its investment of \$1.5 billion and 5,000 direct jobs, to the fact that we're one of the top ten states in the nation for small business survival, companies are looking at Mississippi and what we can do.

Today, I'm proud to say that another company has seen our "open for business" sign – and they're coming in to join us.

Desert Plastics is coming to Summit – and bringing 25 new jobs and an investment of \$1.5 million.

I'm proud of the work that went into this project and the end result for the people of Summit. I appreciate the cooperation between all the entities represented here today – and to Mr. Knowles, I want you to know you've made the right decision. Mississippi's ready to work with you.