

*Remarks for the  
Foreign Press Briefing  
September 20, 2001*

Konnichi wa (good afternoon). I am pleased to be here with you this afternoon, and to have this opportunity to talk about my state of Mississippi, America's state of promise.  
(STOP)

Mississippi is not a large state. Our population is just under 3 million, and we are a largely rural state. But, as Governor of Mississippi, I am committed to the economic development and growth of our state. (STOP)

In August of 2000, we began to focus on that commitment in a special session of the Mississippi Legislature. In that session, we created the Advantage Mississippi Initiative – one of the most aggressive economic development packages in the United States. (STOP)

This initiative created a number of new programs and incentives, all designed to help the state retain existing industry and attract new industry. (STOP)

As you well know, today's marketplace is quite different from the one in which our ancestors worked. Today, we compete in a marketplace that is borderless, wireless and global. (STOP)

For a state like Mississippi, the key word is "compete," and that's what we're doing.

Last year, 195 new businesses decided to locate in our state. The total investment will total over \$2.5 billion, and nearly 12,000 new jobs will be created. (STOP)

We have opened satellite offices of the Mississippi Development Authority around the world. Today, we have offices in Santiago, Chile; London; Singapore; and here in Japan, in Yokohama. (STOP)

This is an important aspect of our work, and these offices help Mississippi exports as well as generate interest in the state as a good place to do business. (STOP)

There is one other factor that is vital to successful economic growth, and that is education. An educated populace and a skilled workforce play a major role in our ability to attract industry. (STOP)

Last July, we passed legislation that will raise the pay for our teachers from 49<sup>th</sup> in the United States to 19<sup>th</sup>. In fact, the New York Times wrote an editorial commenting that Mississippi had put together a package that even New York couldn't match. (STOP)

By investing in our teachers and children, we are investing in our future. That's good for economic development, and that's good for Mississippi. (STOP)

The Mississippi that exists today is one of great potential, and it is my goal to make the most of that potential. We have the people, the resources, the location and the desire to make that happen. (STOP)

Thank you for your time today.