

Greenwood-Leflore County Annual Meeting
Friday, January 12, 2001
6:00 p.m.
Greenwood-Leflore County Civic Center

(Message: Opportunities for Economic Development in the Delta)

Opening

- Good Evening
- (Thank Clyde Manning for his introduction)
- (Wedding Dress Story)

(Physical boundaries are only geographic distinctions. Mississippi can do business with anyone in the world.)

Main Points

1. Advantage Mississippi Initiative
 - a. Opportunity for economic growth.
 - b. Designed for all 82 counties of the State.
 - c. It provides initiatives to attract businesses to MS.
 - d. Targets programs to assist:
 - i. Rural communities.
 - ii. Communities with low unemployment rates.
 - iii. Minority businesses.

- iv. Small businesses.
- e. Rural Development Office
 - i. Making communities aware of opportunities
 - ii. Getting them the information they need to pursue these opportunities.
- f. On-TARGET Community Certification Program
 - i. Helps community leaders recruit, retain and grow business that suit their communities
- g. Capital Access Program (CAP)
 - i. Encourages and supports entrepreneurship among small business and minority-owned business
- h. World Trade Center status to Mississippi
 - i. To extend Mississippi's emergence in the global economy.

2. Delta Regional Authority

- a. Based on the Appalachian Regional Authority in Northeast MS.
 - i. The ARC has been successful, so can the Delta Regional Authority
- b. Will address the critical need for renewal and revitalization of the economic,

physical and social environment of the Delta region.

- c. Make improvements in the area, ripe for growth.
 - i. An area full of hardworking individuals; a valuable resource to our State.
 - ii. An area full of untapped potential
- d. To make long-term solutions based on responsible, long-term planning.
- e. To improve the quality of life in the Delta.
- f. The opportunities are there; we have to find them.

(Nissan is proof that we can succeed and attract more companies to MS. We now have the AMI as a “marketing tool” to do that.)

3. Nissan

- a. They have shown their faith in our state.
 - i. Top 1% in the nation
- b. Mississippi is the spotlight of the nation
- c. 4000 new jobs will be created with their arrival.
 - i. 26,000 spin-off jobs
 - ii. Other companies related to Nissan will move to MS.

- iii. They will relocate all over the state, not just in Canton.
 - 1. Opportunities all over the state will spin-off from the Nissan plant.
- iv. We must target other companies that best suit specific areas of our state.
- d. We must keep up the momentum
 - i. We are happy to “land” Nissan, but we want more businesses to move to MS
 - ii. We want more jobs, more economic development, more opportunities.
 - iii. We want to be in that “spotlight” again and again for the great things happening in Mississippi.

- Everyone plays a role in our state’s success. We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.

(The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.)

Closing

- Mississippi’s Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.

- How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects: economic development, education, healthcare, etc.
- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- We put the spotlight on Mississippi throughout the nation and world with the Nissan announcement, but there are more opportunities waiting for us.
- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- America's State of Promise