

Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet
Friday, January 12, 2001
6:30 p.m.
Casino Magic Entertainment Complex

(Message: Opportunities for Economic Development Growth and Education
in Hancock County)

Opening

- Good Evening
- (Thank Dusty Rhodes for his introduction)
- (Story)

Main Points

1. Opportunities
 - a. Legislators talking “gloom and doom” for our state.
 - b. You will not hear us whining and saying everything must stop.
 - c. Don’t look at budget as an obstacle
 - i. Look for opportunities
 - d. Opportunity to prioritize:
 - i. Education
 - ii. Jobs
 - iii. Healthcare
 - e. Opportunity to invest:
 - i. Invest in education for our kids

- ii. Invest in good jobs for our people
- iii. Invest in health care for all of our people
- f. Give our people the opportunity for a better Quality of Life
- g. Invest – the money is there.
 - i. The key is prioritizing and investing that money in the right places.

2. Budget recommendations to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

- a. We are taking a responsible approach to the slowdown in the economy by affecting a slowdown in budgeting and spending.
- b. Our budget reflects our people's priorities
 - i. Education
 - ii. Economic development
 - iii. Public safety
 - iv. Health care

c. Education recommendations

- i. A strong education system is vital to all future successes for the people of our state.
- ii. Difference between JLBC and our budget:
 - 1. K-12 = 45 million
 - 2. Comm. and Jr. = 11.5 million

3. IHL = 23 million

d. Economic development recommendations

- i. In order for MS to remain competitive, we must continue to support programs that give our people the opportunity for more, new, high-paying jobs.
- ii. We recommend 10 million more than the JLBC budget to maintain our momentum
- iii. **Nissan** is proof that we can succeed and attract more companies to MS.
- iv. They have shown their faith in our state.
 1. Top 1% in the nation
- v. Mississippi is the spotlight of the nation
 1. 4000 new jobs will be created with their arrival.
 2. 26,000 spin-off jobs
- vi. Other companies related to Nissan will move to MS.
- vii. They will relocate all over the state, not just in Canton.
 1. Opportunities all over the state will spin-off from the Nissan plant.

- viii. We must target other companies that best suit specific areas of our state.
- ix. We must keep up the momentum
 - x. We are happy to “land” Nissan, but we want more businesses to move to MS
 - xi. We want more jobs, more economic development, more opportunities.
 - 1. We want to be in that “spotlight” again and again for the great things happening in Mississippi.

(Mention the role **Transportation** plays in economic development. A major factor is our success. Must have good roads, railways, etc.)

e. Healthcare recommendations

- i. We must ensure that our people have access to health care options they need for themselves and their families
 - ii. Our budget recommends 7 million more than the JLBC and we are fully funding the Division of Medicaid.
- f. By working together in this process we are sharing:
- i. Ideas
 - ii. Priorities
 - iii. Solutions

- g. We have a plan of action
- h. We must implement this plan to provide opportunities for all of our people.

- Everyone plays a role in our state's success. We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.
- We also have to concentrate on educating our children and training the current workforce
- 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