

Leland Chamber of Commerce Dinner
Thursday, February 1, 2001
7:15 p.m.
St. James Catholic Youth Center

(Message: Introducing Leland's acceptance into Mississippi Main Street Association and more opportunities for Leland and the State)

Opening

- Good Evening
- (Story)

Main Points

1. Announcement of **Mississippi Main Street** designation for Leland, MS
 - a. I am happy to announce that Leland has received this designation.
 - b. The Mississippi Main Street program consistently ranks within the top 3 programs in the country in terms of efficiency and performance.
 - c. This program builds communities by establishing cohesiveness among the public and private sectors and community leaders.
 - d. These communities are successful because they focus on the heart and soul of the community, its people.

- i. They are committed to working toward developing and revitalizing their downtowns.
 - e. The community spirit demonstrated in the Main Street program is an important element in all successful community and economic development projects
 - f. Working together for the betterment of the community.
 - g. A strong, vibrant community results in successful economic development, and healthy growth in business and industry.
- This is a great opportunity for Leland.
- More opportunities are what we are looking for in Mississippi: for education, for economic development and for a better quality of life.
- Community leaders working together will help make these opportunities possible.

2. Opportunities

- a. Don't look at budget as an obstacle
 - i. Look for opportunities!
 - ii. Mississippi is not broke.
 - 1. Our economy has slowed down.
 - 2. If your economy prospers, eventually it must slow down.

- b. This is our opportunity to prioritize:
 - i. Education
 - ii. Jobs
 - iii. Healthcare
- c. 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
- d. Give our people the opportunity for a better Quality of Life
- e. Invest – the money is there.
 - i. The key is prioritizing and investing that money in the right places.

- I am urging legislators to pass a bill to establish community service leave for state employees
- To encourage **Volunteerism**.
- This would provide more opportunities for Mississippians to have a better Quality of Life.
- Giving back to our communities.
- Volunteering is important
- Volunteering works!

3. 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
- We want companies to locate in Mississippi and for them to prosper. We also want our people to prosper from these opportunities.
- c. 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% investments 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
 - a. These jobs (opportunities) are here now.
- 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.
 2. Supplier opportunities
 - a. Over 270,000 “hits” on the website
 - b. Over 4,500 supplier applications downloaded
 - c. Since Nov.9, 2000, over 959,000 people have visited the website.
 - d. A GREAT opportunity for all of Mississippi
- 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.

d. Education recommendations

- i. A strong education system is vital to all future successes for the people of our state.
- ii. Our children and potential employees must be well educated.
- iii. High tech companies want high tech employees
- iv. Difference between JLBC and our budget:
 1. K-12 = \$45 million
 2. Comm. and Jr. = \$11.5 million
 3. IHL = \$23 million

- Last Spring we took the first step to our success by raising teacher pay
- We must remove the **5% revenue growth condition**
- Show our teachers we are committed to them, like they are committed to our children
- The 5% provision is an excuse, not a commitment
- We want results in MS, not excuses.

- I am urging Legislators to support administrative leave for **state employees attending parent-teacher conferences.**
- A parent's involvement in their child's education is vitally important.
- Teachers will tell you how important it is to have parents who are informed and involved in their child's education.
- A parent's involvement will have a direct effect on their child's advancement, behavior and grades in school.

- 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