

*May Day in Wilkinson County
Wednesday, May 30, 2001
Woodville, MS*

- *(You will be introduced by Rep. David Green)*

- **Glad to be in Wilkinson County**
 - **Thank Wilkinson County Board of Supervisors for hosting this event**

- **Working to improve environment for economic development in Mississippi**
 - **Special session of Legislature last year**

- **That session produced the Advantage Mississippi Initiative– finest economic development strategy in nation**

- **Have already seen results**
 - **Nissan plant currently under construction**
 - **\$930 million investment**
 - **4,000 new jobs**

- **Along with Nissan, looking to attract suppliers**
 - **This means more investment / jobs**
 - **Have identified over 40,000 potential suppliers already in Mississippi**

- **Proud of work that's been done here in Wilkinson County**
 - **\$300,000 CDBG Economic development grant last October**
 - **Used to purchase building and 4 jail modules for Wilkinson County Sheriff's Department**

- **New industry with Dooley Brothers
Ready Mix Company**
 - **Four new jobs**
 - **\$132,500 investment for concrete
facility**

- **Will continue to work with
Mississippi Development Authority to
pursue new industries and
investments for southwest Mississippi**

- **Economic development efforts not
limited to urban areas**
 - **Working in rural areas as well**

- **Advantage Mississippi Initiative will establish Rural Development Office within Mississippi Development Authority**

- **Also created “Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Fund”**
 - **Grant program to assist in completing projects**

- **Believe that development follows infrastructure**
 - **Build strong foundations and strong investments will be made**

- **Infrastructure for rural areas under study now**
 - **Reviewing water and wastewater systems**
 - **Recommendations coming soon**

■ **Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Board**

- **Created last November**
- **Focusing on agricultural development**

■ **However, economic development and infrastructure all based on one thing**

- **Education**

■ **We've got to make sure our children have every opportunity to learn**

- **Addressing this through “Computers in the Classroom” initiative**

- **Currently working to place internet-accessible computers in every public school classroom in Mississippi**
 - **Halfway to goal already**
 - **6,325 computers now being placed**

- **As part of first phase of allocations, placing 18 computers in Wilkinson County School District**
 - **8 at Finch School**
 - **10 at Wilkinson County Elementary School**

- **Must also ensure we are able to recruit and retain the best teachers**
 - **They are key ingredient in success of our children**

- **Teachers are committed to children**
 - **Let's show commitment to them**

- **Need to remove 5 percent provision on teacher pay raises**

■ **We're making progress in Mississippi**

- **Need your help to keep things moving**
- **Our work requires us all to work together, from the Wilkinson County Board of Supervisors to the Legislature**

■ **We all want the same things**

- **More and better-paying jobs for the working people of Mississippi**
- **Better education for our children**
- **Quality of life**

- **It's up to us to make it happen**
 - **Thank you for your commitment**
 - **Thank you for your role in helping
Mississippi live up to its potential**
 - **America's State of Promise**