

*Remarks for the
2003 Housing Summit
June 5, 2003*

- Recognize Steve Hale / Sam Mozee
 - Brian Noyes, HUD Region IV Regional Director, Atlanta

- Story of Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities

- Priorities for Mississippi = education / jobs
 - Best thing our kids can see on their way to school is their parents on their way to a good job
 - All key to improving state's image

■ Our shared work is another reason

Mississippi is taking on a different image

- Image of a state moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
- A state that's competing and leading in the global marketplace
- A state that's setting new standards in education and economic development

■ Every state impacted by national recession /

Mississippi's no different

- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
- June 2003 report from Bureau of Labor Statistics: 9.4 million Americans out of work

- States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs
- Rockefeller Institute: Recession is number one reason for decline in revenues

- Have to protect people in the short term while preparing for the long term
 - Best way to do that is through investing in education and jobs
 - Healthy kids go to school ready to learn
 - Healthy adults are ready to work

- Education as priority
 - Public schools are cornerstones of our communities and a key to successful economy

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation
 - Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind” / 1st state in the South to have plan approved
 - Computers in the Classroom

- We’re proving to the people of Mississippi, and the rest of the nation, that we’re serious about education
 - Making the investment now for dividends tomorrow

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- Another image of Mississippi that's changing
 - No longer a state that depends solely on agriculture / low wage jobs
 - We are aggressive about creating quality, high-paying jobs for our people

- Strong growth over past 3 years
 - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 53,000 new jobs
 - Total business investment in Mississippi nearly \$15 billion

- Opening of Nissan in May sends another strong signal
 - Only auto plant opening in America this year
 - \$1.4 billion investment by Nissan
 - 5,300 direct jobs / 26,000 indirect jobs

- Not just changing economic landscape of Mississippi
 - Changing economic landscape of our people

- That new landscape offers a brighter picture for hard-working Mississippians and their families
 - Helps put food on the table / clothes on the back
 - Also helps put a roof over the head

- When we help create quality, high-paying jobs for our people, we help them with another part of the American Dream
 - Owning their own home

- Job creation is a foundation for helping make this happen
 - At the state level, also committed to offering resources to help the process

■ Through Mississippi Development

Authority and its HOME program, we are working to help make home ownership a reality

■ Since 2000, we've made a difference

- 64 home owner rehabilitation projects to help bring homes up to building standards
- 18 new construction projects to help with construction / rehabilitation of multi-family units
- 35 home buyer assistance projects, providing financial assistance for down payments or closing costs on a home

- 26 projects where we've helped non-profits build decent, safe and affordable housing

- All told, more than 6,000 Mississippians have benefited from these programs
 - Our people / our children living in better, safer homes

- Last year, visited a man in Isola, MS / older gentleman in his 80's
 - Was moving into his first new house
 - We're working to make that a reality for families across Mississippi

- We're building strong partnerships with HUD, local governments, community groups and the private sector
 - Helping with down payment assistance and tax incentives
 - Just as important, we're educating people about process and responsibilities of home ownership

- Homeownership does so much for individuals, families and communities
 - Encourages personal responsibility
 - Stabilizes neighborhoods
 - Helps improve schools and decrease crime

- Proclaimed June as Home Ownership Month in Mississippi

- Clifton Taulbert story

- In the end, all our work is focused on the future of Mississippi and one simple question

 - What do we want?

 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities