

Mississippi National Guard NCO Association Conference
Saturday, April 21, 2001
9:30 a.m.
Whispering Woods Hotel & Convention Center – Olive Branch

(Message: 15 minutes, we have the opportunity to make a difference in Mississippi and to make positive changes)

Opening

- Good Morning
- (Donald Cooley, President, will introduce you)
- (Boy singing in choir story)

Main Points

1. Opportunities to Prioritize

- a. Mississippians now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
- b. We must be ready for the future – ready for changes
- c. More opportunities in:
 - i. Education
 1. The cornerstone of our success.
 - ii. Economic Development
 1. Nissan and groundbreaking.
 - iii. Healthcare
 - iv. Public Safety
 1. You – The National Guard are a top rate group.
 2. The best at what you do.

3. You represent Mississippi well.
- d. These are our priorities.
 - i. We must use these as guidelines when deciding what to do for the people of Mississippi.
 1. Because these are their priorities.
 2. Use to guide our budget decisions.
- e. Education and economic development go hand in hand.
- f. A state must have trained employees for potential new businesses.
 - i. High-tech companies must have high-tech employees.
 - ii. We are investing in good jobs for our people
 1. Nissan
 - a. Is only the beginning.
 - b. The AMI gave Mississippi the competitive advantage.
 2. Supplier opportunities
 - a. Creating thousands of spin-off jobs for Mississippians
 - b. Potential for 26,000 for all of Mississippi.
- g. Give our people the opportunity for an even **better** Quality of Life
- h. Mississippi must invest.

- i. The key is prioritizing and investing our money in the right places.
- ii. We want to be more competitive.
- iii. We want positive changes for our state.

2. Promoting a more Positive Image of our State

- a. Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.
- b. How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects:
 - i. Economic development,
 - ii. Education,
 - iii. Tourism.
- c. We have opportunities to promote a positive image.
- d. We must join together and concentrate on making Mississippi an even better place to live, work and raise a family.
- e. Companies are placing their faith in our state.
- f. The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.
- g. We put the spotlight on Mississippi throughout the nation and world with the

Nissan announcement, but there are more opportunities waiting for us.

3. Budget

- a. We must be responsible with the people's money.
- b. I must keep the budget balanced in good times and challenging times.
- c. They deserve and demand that of state leaders.
- d. This year, our state is growing at less than 1%
 - i. The nation's economy is at a standstill.
 - ii. Our rate of growth, along with half the nation is sluggish.
- e. Using inflated figures to build our budget for the upcoming year, will cause us to cut more money from our agencies, colleges and universities, and schools next year.
- f. We are budgeting on quicksand.
- g. Our budget problem will escalate into a budget crisis!
- h. We urged the legislature to lower the estimated rate of growth from 3.7% to 1%.
- i. We should be honest with our people and make the adjustment that bases our rate of growth on a real number, if not:
 - i. We are misleading our people.

- j. We should restore credibility and common sense to Mississippi's budget.

Closing

- Mississippi is headed forward.
- It takes everyone working together to move our state forward – locally and statewide.
- We are not going to turn back the clocks and disrupt our progress.
- We want more great opportunities for the people of Mississippi.
- We want our children to have the opportunity to live, work and raise their families here.
- Everyone plays a role in our success.
- Working together we can and will make it happen.
- The people of Mississippi deserve that commitment.
- The children of Mississippi deserve that commitment.
- Our future depends on everyone working as a team in Mississippi.
- Making plans now for an even better Mississippi will ensure that future generations continue to succeed in our state.