

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

Friday, May 2, 2003

Othor Cain, Radio Taping (Will air Sunday)

2:55 p.m.

Questions:

Jobs/Nissan, education, economy of state, Bureau of Narcotics strategy, Re-elect, general Q&A

### 1. Jobs in Mississippi/ New and Existing companies

Nissan

- Nissan North America \$1.4 billion investment
- More than 5,000 direct jobs
- Most technologically advanced production line in the world, testament to our workers here in Mississippi
- Automotive Suppliers – 25 and counting – across the state, Hattiesburg, Vicksburg, Forest, Slatton, Grenada, Holly Springs, Greenville, Verona, Olive Branch

Job numbers

East Mississippi/West Alabama Jobs Alliance

- During this national recession, it takes bold creative ideas to provide jobs for our people.
- The East Mississippi/West Alabama jobs alliance is an innovative strategy that combines the economic and political resources of two states that, in the past, have competed against each other for large projects.
- It stems from the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, passed in 2000 by the legislature, which allows regional alliances such as this one.
- We have worked with East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, and area elected officials, Wade Jones and others, for over a year
- Talked to Governor Riley personally in February at NGA
- Went to Montgomery to meet with Governor Riley
- Bob Rohrlack and Neal Wade working together on MOU
- AL has to pass legislation

## 2. Education

- Teacher Pay Raise – From 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> when fully implemented
- First state in nation to place Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom / confirmed by NGA
- Historic precedent of 2003 session – Invest in education first / increasing investment in education while other states are cutting; 62% of budget
- Princeton Review: 6<sup>th</sup> best testing system in nation
- Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind”, 6<sup>th</sup> state approved
- 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
- Early Childhood Task Force

## 3. Economy of State

- Although the economy has been sluggish, and the national recession and NAFTA have hurt jobs in Mississippi, we anticipate the state economy picking up, especially with Nissan opening in May. There are other job expansions across the state as well, such as Northrup Grumman and Howard Industries.
- We must continue to prioritize our efforts on what actually helps our people on the local level. That’s why we are focusing our efforts on education and jobs. Education at all levels, not just K-12 and good paying jobs.

## 4. Bureau of Narcotics

- We must do everything we can to stop the devastation that illegal drugs bring to our families and our communities.
- Big dealers off the streets and locked up.
- Victims, especially the young people, provided rehabilitation to provide for their families and lead a productive life.