

*Remarks for the
Tower Automotive Groundbreaking
November 12, 2001*

368 days ago, we announced that Mississippi had landed the largest economic development project in the nation.

Nissan was coming to our state with a \$930 million investment and 4,000 jobs.

We accomplished in just five months what normally takes eighteen months. We had sent a message to the rest of the world with our work.

That message, simply, was this: Mississippi can compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere.

We demonstrated our commitment to being a player in the economy of the 21st century, an economy that is borderless, wireless and global.

We demonstrated our ability to broaden our economic infrastructure from its foundation in agriculture to include quality, high-technology and well-paying jobs.

We demonstrated that Mississippi means business.

And the Nissan deal was just the beginning of that demonstration.

Just as important in the Nissan project are the suppliers who are coming in to support the plant. On July 17, we announced Tower Automotive as one of the first round of Tier One suppliers for Nissan.

Today, I'm proud to be here to help Tower Automotive start its roots in Mississippi.

With an investment of more than \$9 million in this plant and the promise of at least 150 new jobs, Tower Automotive will have a dramatic impact on our economy.

A great deal of work has gone into making this day possible. It's been written that "work is effort applied to some end."

Our work is paying off. We are seeing the results of this work, this effort, by so many people.

I want to thank Mark Bounds and EastGroup Properties for their hard work in making this day possible as well. Their commitment to seeing new growth in Mississippi has helped strengthen our work across the state.

And to David Valkanoff with Tower Automotive, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I'm proud to welcome you to America's state of promise.

When we turn this soil today, we're turning the page in another chapter of the Nissan project. But, we're not getting closer to the end; rather, we're just getting started. It's going to be a great trip together.

We're glad you're here.