

MEMORANDUM

March 19, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: ABC News story on Nissan

I have spoken this afternoon with Steve Osunsami of ABC News regarding the Nissan story. As you know, he is coming to Mississippi tomorrow and would like to interview you. He says he has one question: How important is it to attract plants like Nissan to Mississippi?

I spoke with him about 5:30 pm and told him your schedule did not allow for an interview, but we would have a statement available for him. He informed me he would not use a statement in his story, and he wanted to have someone besides a lawyer for the state commenting on the positive side of this story.

I have tried to make the point that your schedule simply will not accommodate an interview, and he remains insistent. He said an interview on the fly would work, if that's what it takes.

I have discussed this with Phillip, and he wants me to continue stringing Steve along as long as possible.

Here is the statement we drafted: "The impact of a project like the Nissan plant cannot be emphasized enough. In the face of a national recession, this \$930 million investment and the creation of 4,000 direct jobs means new opportunities for the people of Mississippi. We're proud of what we've been able to do for our citizens."