

In the middle of a national recession, we are working very hard to bring new jobs to Mississippi. And, as you know, it is working.

Friday, we are going to Japan for the sole purpose of more jobs for Mississippians. Our trip will focus on companies who have recently selected Mississippi and companies who are ready to expand. This mission is part of our aggressive Advantage Mississippi initiative.

Yesterday, USA Fabrics announced that they are expanding their manufacturing operations to Quitman Mississippi. In the announcement, USA Fabrics stated that Clark County is a good place for us.

Mississippi exports rose 30 percent last year, more than any other state in the first half of 2001.

Today's action by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is outrageous, inappropriate, and irresponsible. Basically, what they are doing is nothing more than political blackmail. The U.S. Chamber should worry about the national economy and the national recession's effect on Mississippi and not the other way around.

Questions about our civil justice system need to be answered here in Mississippi. I have said numerous times that I would sign reasonable civil justice reform legislation.

Again, we have too many positive things to say about Mississippi. The rest of the nation and the world are noticing what is taking place in Mississippi. The U.S. Chamber is just behind the times.