

*Remarks for the
Hart and Cooley Announcement
June 18, 2002*

Good afternoon (recognize dignitaries). I love days like today. We're here to announce 300 new jobs for the people of Mississippi, and that's a great thing.

We may be in the middle of a national recession, but we're bringing jobs to Mississippi. We can't control what's happening on Wall Street, but we can work as hard as possible to help out Main Street.

To the leaders of Hart and Cooley, let me say, “welcome to Mississippi.” We’re proud you’re here and we’re looking forward to a long and productive working relationship with you.

The world is taking notice of Mississippi now, and for all the right reasons.

They see what we’ve done with the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, both in terms of recruiting and retaining business.

They see Mississippi as a serious player in the world market – and I’m proud of that. It’s about time people realized that we can compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

They see that in the first two months of this year alone, we created over 1,200 new jobs through the expansion of existing industries alone – and we’re working to increase that dramatically through the expansion of the Nissan facility.

I’m excited about what’s going on in Mississippi, about our potential and our promise, about our ability to accomplish some fantastic things.

I'm excited about businesses locating and expanding in Mississippi, and the opportunities they bring with them.

I'm excited by the message sent by events like this announcement today, that show Mississippi is a great place to do business.

How we continue to grow and develop as a state depends on us and our mindset. We cannot look at a situation and think, "something must be done." We have look at them and think, "we must do something."

I want every Mississippian to think that way. I want us to work together to accomplish those things I know we can do.

We have been blessed with the talent; we must invest it well, and not be content with keeping it buried.

Again, welcome to Mississippi. We're glad you're here in America's state of promise.

Thank you.