

*Remarks for the
Lockheed Martin Ribbon Cutting
August 5, 2002*

(recognize Dr. Coffman, Senator Lott, Mr.
O’Keefe, Mr. Pullman)

Nearly two years ago, we gathered here to
announce that Lockheed Martin was moving to
Mississippi – and now that move is complete.

The work of producing state-of-the-art
propulsion systems and thermal control systems
is going to be done here in Hancock County,
Mississippi. That’s good for all Mississippians.

I'm proud of what we've been able to do to make this day possible. We've invested millions in this project, and the investment was made because of the need to build not only this facility, but to build Mississippi.

Our investment is not just in bricks and mortar; it's in the jobs, the people and the communities that will support this project. It's in the potential for what this state and its people can do.

Today's ceremony sends a strong message to the rest of the world, a message that Mississippi is a good place to do business. We're not just an agricultural state anymore; we're a state with companies building cars and computers, and now, components that help our country lead in the exploration of space.

It's been said that you can't plow a field by turning the dirt in your mind. By the same token, you can't build industry by just thinking about it.

We haven't just thought about it in Mississippi. We've rolled up our sleeves and gone to work – and today we are seeing the results of those efforts.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I am proud to welcome Lockheed Martin to our great state, America's state of promise.