

*Remarks for the
Sherwin-Williams / OSHA Ceremony
May 31, 2002*

Thank you, William. Congressman Wicker, Mr. Sass, Mr. Scaminace, Mr. Connor – it is a pleasure to be here with you all today.

This is a great day for Sherwin-Williams, but it's also a great day for Mississippi. Sherwin-Williams has worked hard to achieve “Star” status under the Voluntary Protection Program – and the employees of this facility are to be commended.

I believe this achievement speaks volumes about the Mississippi workforce, and let me say how very proud I am of all the employees here in Olive Branch – as well as those in other businesses around the state.

We are working hard to create quality, high-paying jobs for our people. We work hard to convince businesses that Mississippi is a good place to do business. Sherwin-Williams already knows that, and so do many other businesses.

Now more than ever, it's important for us to invest in business in Mississippi. It's important for us to be competitive. We fought hard to maintain funding for the Mississippi Development Authority during the 2002 session, because every dollar we take away from economic development is a dollar taken away from workforce training, job retention, or worker safety.

William Wiley and all the employees here in Olive Branch have done a tremendous job in achieving this goal today. They know better than anyone that the race doesn't always go to the swift, but to those who keep on running.

Persistence and determination have paid off here today. Congratulations to you all.