

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

10-30-1991

Audio begins at 0:24

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. President Bush and Secretary Baker have been able to get the Israelis and Arabs to sit down at the conference table in Spain. What do you think will come from these talks?

Montgomery: You know I wish it would be more successful than we all think it will be, but it's a step in the right direction. In that you've got mortal enemies sitting down across from a table. Somebody said they're not looking at each other, but at least they're sitting at the table. And maybe something good can come out of it. You know they just keep killing each other, and they've been doing it in the Middle East for years and years and years. But maybe there is a chance, if you if you don't have meetings like this, you will you will never get any type of peace in that part of the world so... it's a right direction, and gosh I just hope that they can get together and that something good can come out of these peace negotiations. And I commend President Bush, especially Secretary Baker, and...President Gorbachev for putting this issue on the front burner. In in meeting in in Madrid, Spain and seeing what can happen. So, let's keep our fingers crossed that there is a chance that we can get some type of a peace in that part of the world.

Interviewer: Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney will be coming to Meridian, Mississippi in two weeks, to speak at a luncheon in your honor. What are the details of this event?

Montgomery: I've been in the Congress twenty-five years, and I'd like to certainly thank the people of the Congressional District for giving me this opportunity to ah to serve in this great job. Secretary Cheney will be coming down because I serve on the House of Arms Service committee, and because I asked him to to come down. And and he will um he will make about a fifteen-minute address on that day. You know it's always something could happen, some emergency around the world, around our country effecting the military and he might have to cancel out. But I don't think so, I think he would be there, plus I believe I am going to be able to bring about twenty members from the Congress of the United States. Where I'm trying to work it out where we won't have votes on on that Friday. So, I would hope, that uh many people would would turn out and show that the appreciation for our Meridian Naval Air Station and for the rest of the military we've got in in Mississippi both active and National Guard and reserve. And John Conaway, Chief of the National Guard Bureau will be coming down with us, and we're bringing a number of people out of the out of the Washington scene to to come to my hometown, and we're looking forward to a real nice celebration. And I hope people hearing our voice today would buy tickets and would come over because I think it's good for our state to have a big big turnout. Plus we're going to have a aircraft display right right at the Meridian

Naval Air Station of all all the planes, the different types of planes and helicopters that fought in the Persian Gulf, including the F-117, the Apache Helicopter, and other types of aircraft will be on display there. And I think it will be just great that you can see the type of airplanes and helicopters that we used in the Persian Gulf War, will be right there on that November fifteenth dedication.

Interviewer: The defense department recently sent letters to a number of men and women who were mobilized for Operation Desert Storm, saying they had been overpaid and demanding the money back. On October eighteenth they suspended that action, pending further review. What's your opinion on the issue?

Montgomery: I would hope that they would just forgive these overpayments, what happened was some of the young men and women didn't stay in the service as long as the Defense Department thought they were, and they gave them advance pay, and they would take a little of that advance pay out of their regular pay each month. We might even take do something in our Authorization Defense Bill, which we will take up either the end of this week or next week where we might put legislation in there that would be a forgiveness clause. But it's gon be pretty hard for some of these people to pay back a thousand dollars or four or five hundred dollars that they owe. We're working on it; I think we do have a chance where they will be forgiven and not have to pay the money back.

Interviewer: Thank you Congressman, this has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington, furnished as a public service by this station.

Audio ends at 5:16