

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

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Audio begins at 00:18

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. The House passed a bill this week to extend veterans housing benefits to members of the National Guard and Reserve. What are the details on this bill that you managed on the House floor?

Montgomery: Well you know over 250,000 National Guardsmen and Reserves were called up for the Persian Gulf War. If they stayed in the service over 3 months, we made 'em veterans and so they're now eligible for all veterans housing programs or all veterans programs. But what we've done in this bill and I hope the Senate will adopt and the President will sign it. Any National Guardsmen or Reserves who's been in the service for over...over 6 years we want him eligible for some of these veterans' loans, housing loans. So that's what we've passed that that person in the National Guard and Reserve who's been in over 6 years and has stayed in the National Guard or Reserve giving service to the country even though they did not get to the Persian Gulf. We will make them eligible if it passes the Senate and the President will sign it where they can go in and...and...and apply for a veterans home loan. We have some of the best home loans out there and we would like to see these National Guardsmen and Reserves be eligible for this veterans benefit.

Interviewer: The Budget Committee will bring its blueprint for the fiscal year '93 budget to the floor later this week. It contains provisions that would cut defense spending at a higher rate than proposed by President Bush. What do you think of that?

Montgomery: I'm very concerned about this budget resolution that's come out of the so-called Budget Committee. What the Budget Committee does, they tell each committee such as Veterans and...and Armed Services Committee. They take and slice the pie up and say this is how much money you can have in in in this budget this is how much money we'll have coming in. So, veterans department will get so much, armed services so much, healthcare so much but what this budget does it's been brought out by the Budget Committee. Is that it cuts defense too much. I'm very concerned about that. If there's any savings coming along there in government, its being all taken out of defense and defense does two things for you. If you spend your money right you get a strong defense, you deter your so called enemy's out there and secondly you give jobs to people in uniform and...and jobs to people working for...for contractors so both the President's budget and this Democratic budget which we'll vote on this week in my opinion cuts...cuts way...way too deep. And it will affect us in Mississippi if it would pass. It would mean that we would have, and I've said this over and over again the last year, we'll have to close some National Guard Armories it could affect Columbus Air Force Base, it could affect the Naval

Air Station in Meridian. The active duty facilities we have down on the Mississippi coast would be affect. Ingles Shipyard would be slowed down and wouldn't be building as much ships. I'm just concerned about the budget that we will vote on this week. I think they cut too much in the military and it will affect Mississippi in jobs.

Interviewer: Fellow Mississippian and House Sargent in Arms Jack Russ was shot and robbed just steps from the U.S. Capitol this past weekend. What's his condition and do you think this crime would possibly spur Congress to move a tough anti-crime bill this year?

Montgomery: I talked to Jack Russ in the hospital, he he's out this week, he's going to have to have some a little facial operation down on his face but he was very fortunate that he didn't lose his life as you know he's from the Picayune, Mississippi. Congressman Calmer brought him up here years and years ago came up here as a page, now he has one of the top jobs in the House of Representatives. He's Sargent in Arms and that's head of the police force. We've got to do something about crime up here in in Washington. I think it will help on a crime bill, it will move it ahead and we've just got to get this this crime and punish these criminals more than we're doing now. But I wanna say remind people that they certainly should consider voting this this next Tuesday on March the 10th in Mississippi. We don't turn out vote whoever you want to but that's your best privilege to vote and use that privilege.

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 05:24