

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

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Audio begins at 0:16

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. The One Hundred Second Congress adjourned last week. What is your assessment of its overall performance these past two years?

Montgomery: I guess you could say, mixed reactions, we had some pluses and we had some minuses on this One Hundred and Second Congress. And that's a two year stretch and then we start in January in the One Hundred and Third Congress. We were able to protect our active duty military bases there, as they're closing bases around the country. We we're able in the third district, which I represent, and all of Mississippi, we're very fortunate we didn't lose any military bases. And I'm very proud that we're not going to have to close any armory's in this next fiscal year. National Guard or Reserve army's in our state. We are able to keep the strength levels up, of the National Guard and Reserve and so that's certainly a plus for us too. So, for 1993, I think most of the National Guard armies will stay open, and I hope most of the Army Reserve units will be alright. We passed a big highway reauthorization bill, it's really good for our state, it's putting people to work right now. That the funding is flowing into Mississippi and other states to build back our infrastructure. And just get things going as far as our highways are concerned. We passed a pretty good education act. It's going to help middle income families. To get help from grants and from loans from the federal government. As far as our veterans are concerned, we had a real good year for veterans' programs, I'll touch on them in just a few minutes. And also, we were able to start a counter drug law enforcement school in Mississippi, that will teach law enforcement officers more about fighting the drug war. And it'll be coming from Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. Going to this school we're proud of that. Disappointments? We failed on a balanced budget amendment, to try and get this government spending under control and not spend more than we take in. We missed it by nine votes of where we can pass an amendment and people would vote on it in different states, which I think they would've adopted. But just saying you can't spend more money than you take in for that fiscal year, we didn't pass that, I'm disappointed. We didn't really tackle, or get into, a national health plan for all Americans, where they would have some type of health coverage. There are a number of plans out there, but no way to pay for them at this time, but I think that next year we will come up with a national health plan. And I was disappointed that we didn't solve that problem. We thought that we had passed bankruptcy reform, we passed it in the house we thought the Senate was going to accept it. Well, we made some changes in the bankruptcy law, made it harder for people to go into bankruptcy that'll have to try to work out and pay their obligations before they go into bankruptcy court. The Senate changed the bill we sent to them, and they sent it back over to us. By that time, we had adjourned and gone home,

but I hope next year right off in January we can right on this bankruptcy reform. Line item veto, where the President can veto part of a bill, appropriations something like two bridges in a state that shouldn't be there in the bill. Then we didn't pass that, I was disappointed, but maybe we'll have a good chance to do that next year. So, we had as I said, mixed reactions of what the Congress did, but as a whole Mississippi came out well.

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

Audio ends at 4:35