

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

11-02-1994

Audio begins at 0:21

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. A plan was introduced in this past Congress to lower the tax-exemption on inheritance taxes from the current \$600,000 to \$200,000 as a way to pay for Health Care Reform. No Action was taken, but it may be brought back in the new Congress in January. What do you think of such an idea?

Montgomery: I think it's a bad idea, and I would oppose reducing the tax-exemption on inheritance tax from six hundred thousand dollars to two hundred thousand. I would oppose that, and I don't think it will pass. I believe we will be able to block it in Congress, and we'll hear from enough people who worked hard. Built them up a little estate and would like to leave it on to their children. So, I think the current six hundred thousand dollars probably should be raise, because values have gone up and as I recall; it's been a long long time that it's been at these six hundred thousand dollars. But, as far as inheritance tax being reduced to only get a tax exemption of two hundred thousand, it won't pass. And I'm glad it won't.

Interviewer: Speaking of the Health Care Reform, you opposed the Clinton Health Care Plan because it created a big new bureaucracy and would have caused as many problems as it would have solved. But the issue will be back next year. What do you think should be the focus of health care reform next year?

Montgomery: I think we should concentrate on the lower income, the under privileged. And not worry about the other people at this time, who already have some health insurance. When I travel around the district, I was told "Sonny I have a good health care plan for my wife, and myself, my family; I like my doctors I'm using even though I'm paying a little more each year, I don't want to change it that much." So, I think the people really want us to work on the lower income, the under privileged. And try to work that out, and we can do that without changing the whole system. Starting out, helping the people who need help, and go that way without a big new bureaucracy of health care. And that's what I have in mind, that we should do. And I think that's what will happen, we'll start out helping those who fall through the cracks who don't have any insurance we'll correct. To give you an example, like an employee who works with one company, he moves to the other company, gets a better job. But he can't get health insurance because of a pre-existing illness of his young child, has diabetes. So, they won't write him, we need to correct that. People should be able to keep their health insurance and companies, insurance companies I'm talking about, just can't go around and cancel people's

policy. That's the biggest think, we ought to correct that. And that will help and figure out some ways to have some more rural health care clinics. And we'll figure out some way to pay for it.

Interviewer: You recently participated in ground-breaking ceremonies in Kosciusko for one of three new veterans nursing homes you helped get funding for this year. What will these facilities mean for Mississippi?

Montgomery: Oh, I'm very proud of that. We already have one state veterans nursing home, now we will have three state, new veterans nursing homes. Being built in Oxford, Kosciusko, and Collins, Mississippi. And they'll be a hundred and fifty beds, and an old veteran reaching the golden age of his life will have a chance to move into one of these veterans' homes. Where they'll get warm meals, have a place to sleep, and they'll get taken care off. And we're very proud of that, I was able, working with our state veterans board in Jackson. We worked together, got some state funds, and state legislators in Mississippi helped us out. And when I got the federal funds for these projects, each one of them is about eight, I think, around eight million dollars to build them. They'll employ between one hundred and fifty and two hundred people. And they will be a hundred and fifty beds, and this is good. Mississippi is one of the nine states, of the fifty states, that will have over four or more state nursing homes. We're very proud of that, we've got more nursing homes now than either California or the state of New York.

Interviewer: Thank you Congressman, this has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington.

Audio ends at: 5:05