

G.V. 'Sonny' Montgomery Weekly Radio Show 11-01-1995

[speaking starts 0:17]

Announcer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. You voted in favor of the Budget Reconciliation Bill passed in the House last week. Why did you support it?

Montgomery: You know, the people have been telling me and my Congressional district that President Clinton has been saying that, uh, Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich, uh, leaders in both the Senate and the House have been saying we need a balanced budget, and we need it in seven years, and President Clinton said that. So, this is our first chance to move toward a balanced budget. If we had killed the bill last week in the House, then maybe it would have been next year before we start. The bill we passed, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act, we'll go to conference with the Senate, and we'll work out some differences there. Then the balanced budget amendment will go down to the White House, and the president said he will, he will, he will veto it, and then we'll all get together, including the White House and the Senate in the House, and try to introduce a bill that will bring a balanced budget in seven years. This bill that we passed in the House cuts capital gain to around 20% and certainly the small timber landowners, the landowners in Mississippi would benefit by capital gain's reduction. It would be affective as I understand it, affective on January 1995. It raises the state tax exemption from \$600,000 to \$750,000. I want to repeat that 600,000 to 750,000. Those who have estates, and this would help, and what it really is doing, the bill we passed would require some small sacrifice by everyone but no major hit on any individual or group. Those who come under Medicare and Medicaid might have to sacrifice, just a little. Doctors and hospitals are not going to be able to charge as much as these as they are charging now. This goes across the board, but no one will be hurt that much, but this was a start of a process to get the balanced budget in seven years. We are borrowing so much money that the interest on this, on this money we have to pay next year will be around 265 billion dollars which is more than we will spend on the military next year. It's really an affect money wasted interest on the national debt that we could take that money and apply it to helping people in all walks of life. So, we need to balance the budget and that's why I support the bill.

Announcer: The House voted more than two-thirds majority to express the view that no U.S. military forces should be deployed on the ground in Bosnia without congressional approval. The motion has no force of law, but it does put the House on record. What do you think of the issue?

Montgomery: I supported the issue. I hope it doesn't affect the meetings that are now taking place between the leadership in Yugoslavia or Bosnia, but I'm very considered about putting American on the ground in Bosnia. It's a dangerous operation. I want it to go on record I'm opposing it. I still hope President Clinton will not put Americans in the war-torn area. Basically, and about 5,000 miles from us, but it's not really our fight over there, but I'm scared we're about to get involved, but I hope not.

Announcer: You will participate in several Veterans Day events in Washington on November 11. The focus this year is on the World War II generation. What is on the agenda?

Montgomery: I've been a WWII veteran, and I'm glad the focus is on WWII veterans. As I've said over and over again, over half the population in America today were born after WWII. They don't know much about the WWII. The biggest conflict the world has ever known, and our younger people ought to know about it. There were a lot of sacrifices. I was part of a dedication in building the memorial here in Washington for the WWII veterans. I'll be part of laying a wreath on soldiers' graves at Arlington Cemetery. So, it's something that should be done to let our younger people know there were a lot of sacrifices in WWII, and it just didn't come easy.

Announcer: Thank you Congressman. This has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington.

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