

G.V. 'Sonny' Montgomery's Weekly Radio Show 10-30-1996

[Speaking started at 0:22]

Announcer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. Congressman, I have heard rumors that the troops may be kept in Bosnia indefinitely. Do you have any news on this matter?

Montgomery: I'm afraid it's not a rumor. We put American troops in Bosnia about ten months ago, and the President of the United States told us when he put those troops in there to stop the killing between the Bosnian people, Yugoslavia people, he'd only keep them there for a year. And now what's happened is that the UN and NATO has asked for us to keep American forces still there longer. It's a bad situation for us, but the mission has worked so far. It has stopped these people from killing each other, but I won't have a vote on it next year, but I think we still ought to get those Americans out of Bosnia. We were told they'd be there a year. It costs a lot of money to keep those forces in that part of the world. They did a good job. As I said earlier the mission was successful, but it's just not fair spending all this money on forces overseas. The biggest problem I see with the American military policies is wherever we put Americans in on the ground in these different foreign countries; even since World War II we never withdraw them. We keep them there forever and ever, World War II, we still got 150,000 Americans in Europe. We've got them in Korea. We've got over 60,000 Americans there. We've got them in the Persian Gulf. We've got them in Haiti. We've got them in Bosnia. We've just got them all over the world, and it costs a lot of money to do that. The president didn't ask for money to pay for all of this. So, therefore the defense department looks at closing bases back in the United States. We don't want that. We've got too many forces overseas. We ought to bring them home, including those in Bosnia.

Announcer: Speaking of recent news, it was recently released that the deficit for the fiscal year 1996 was the smallest since 1981. Does this mean Congress is on the right track?

Montgomery: It sure does. I am proud of Congress, and the last four years we've brought down the deficit from almost over 300 billion to now it's about 107 billion dollars at the end of this fiscal year. That's good. Two reasons really the economy is good. Two reasons why the deficit has been coming down. The economy is good so people are paying more taxes. Congress is doing a better job. We're not spending as much money as we used to. In fact, even during the Reagan, Bush, and now Clinton administration they've asked for more money than we've actually given the White House. So, we are cutting back on spending, but we've got, we've got to tackle this national debt that's in the trillions of dollars now, and it's really gotten out of hand. The interest on that national debt for this next fiscal year will be more than we spend for the military for the next fiscal year. So that's money that's been wasted we could be using for domestic programs, but the interest is mighty high. We ought to

get the deficit down, balance the budget, and then start working on the national debt.

Announcer: I understand you will be attending the opening of the state veterans' home in Oxford.

Montgomery: Yes, I'm looking forward to that. It'll be this weekend, and that'll be the third state veterans nursing home we've dedicated in the last few years. We built our first state veterans' home in 1987 in Jackson. We dedicated a veteran's home in Collins, Mississippi two weeks ago, and now we're dedicating a state veterans' home in Oxford, and the first of next year we will dedicate one in Kosciusko, Mississippi. So, the bottom line is Mississippi has four state veterans nursing home on line for our veterans. We are getting a benefits building in Jackson. So, Mississippi has done well for their veterans with the best facilities of any other state in the nation.

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

[Speaking stops at 4:57]