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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Closing of the 1st Session of the 83rd Congress, 1953

July 29

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on July 24th, 1953, and played on WDOV on July 29th, 1953.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear brings to the people of Delaware the thirtieth in a series of brief reports on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you. Congress is entering what may very well be the final week of this session of congress. It is hoped that the Senate and the House of Representatives will complete work on those legislative matters which have been scheduled for consideration during the next few days. There is no requirement that congress must go out of session at the end of the month. It could very well carry on its deliberations through the remainder of the year. However, because many members of both houses wish to return to their home states and districts, and because certain field trips by committees must be made in connection with future legislation, congress is trying to adjourn this week. It is somewhat premature, perhaps, to make any assessment of the record of the present congress. With the new administration taking office last January, and with the control of the houses of congress moving from one party to another at that time, a great deal of reorienting was clearly necessary. This situation has been reflected in various legislative discussions as the congress carried on its program. A more thorough analysis of the Eighty-Third Congress will be possible when it has completed its second and final session next year. Looming large over the affairs of state during these past six months and especially during the last few hours is the conflict in Korea. The sequence of events there is directly connected with the action of congress last week in approving a defense budget of about thirty-four and one half billion dollars. Passage of this huge money bill came after efforts to increase funds for the Air Force had been defeated. A sharp disagreement existed during the debate between those who favored a restoration of recommended reduction for the Air Force, and those who felt that the lesser sum would be adequate to carry out the mission of that branch of the service. But despite the action taken by the Senate with respect to the Air Force budget, the staggering amount of money approved for defense purposes clearly emphasizes the conviction on the part of this government that we must continue to maintain our national security at the highest
possible level of efficiency and readiness. One might call the defense budget a bellwether for most of our other major legislative decisions. For taxes, trade, agriculture, and most matters pertinent to our national life are directly or indirectly related to the national defense picture. It seems safe to assume that the programs of preparedness now going forward will have to be continued for an indefinite period. I have indicated before the fact that we have developed our armed might to such an extent since hostilities began in Korea has undoubtedly accounted for some of the grief which has come recently to the Kremlin and which we confidently hope will continue. It is to be hoped that our military and civilian leaders of the defense establishment will not allow industries which have been engaged in turning out weapons to become idle or to be dismantled even though planned programs of production are being completed. This thought occurs to be because of recent proposals to reduce or curtail output of certain heavy weapons. Delaware, with its huge tank lab, and with other factories producing weapons and materials for defense, is vitally concerned in the preparedness program. Defense cannot become static if we are to survive. We must constantly maintain and develop our new tools for national security because we can all be certain that our enemies are striving night and day to gain supremacy in the creation of new and greater methods of destruction. [04:59] I might add also in closing that the economy of our state, or any other state, might suffer harshly if any serious disruption of industrial activity were to occur suddenly. Let us then remember that as long as the threat to our way of life continues, it will be necessary to remain vigilant, and to have at our disposal the available means for dealing with aggression wherever it strikes.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the thirtieth of a series of brief reports to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear spoke from the Senate Office Building in Washington, and will be heard again next week at this same time.

[End 05:57]