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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Delaware Children Visit Washington, DC, 1953 April 22
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]
Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 17th, 1953, and played on WDOV on April 24th, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. I am prompted on this occasion to depart from comment on purely congressional affairs in order to make some brief observations on an event which I consider to be of great significance which has been occurring here in Washington during the past few weeks. The event to which I refer is not only of importance now, but in addition, its long-range effects are a hopeful and encouraging prospect for the future of America. It is not a momentous, national, or international incident of which I am speaking, but it is one of the finest and most stimulating examples of democracy which one could find. I refer to the large and enthusiastic outpouring of Delaware school children to Washington in this spring of 1953 to see their government in action. Already, hundreds of these boys and girls from our public, private, and parochial schools in the state have come to the national capital, not along as sight-seers, but as energetic, young citizens interested in what is going on in the congress and why. I have been literally amazed by the knowledge which many of these young people exemplify in the course of their visit here. In current legislative matters, as well as in past historical crises and events, they have displayed a remarkable degree of knowledge, and what is more, these Delaware pupils are seemingly eager to be informed as fully as possible on national affairs, embracing not only the legislative branch, but the executive and judicial bodies of the government as well. It surely must be an occasion of pride to the people who accompanied these students when they find (unintelligible [02:55]) to be so vitally concerned with the world about them. In a deeper sense, it is most assuredly a reflection of a growing insistence on the part of the public at large to become socially acquainted with the policies and functions of the government. Now and then, teachers accompany a group of students to my office, express concern (unintelligible [03:21]) the normal procedure of our office staff. We have endeavored to assure all of them that under no circumstances are they causing any interruption of our work here. As a matter of fact, I have endeavored to strongly encourage every class of pupils from Delaware to
include a stop at this office on their itinerary. And I am sure that these sentiments are shared by the other key members of our congressional delegation. And so, I would like to suggest to those school groups which may be considering a visit to Washington this spring that they make plans and come down, even if only for a few hours. A visit with their congressional representatives, a short period of time spent in a (unintelligible [04:15]) of the Senate and House of Representatives, a tour of the great Capital building, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, a host of other notable historic landmarks provide a tactile lesson in both current events and past history that will long be remembered.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the sixteenth 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 05:04]