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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Itinerary of President Eisenhower's Visit to Delaware, 1954 June 9
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The week in Congress, recorded on June 7th, 1954, and played on WDOV on June 9th, 1954.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. It was indeed an honor and a privilege for my colleagues of the state’s congressional delegation and myself to accompany the President of the United States on his brief visit to Delaware. The Chief Executive and (unintelligible [00:46]) Washington colleagues in Chestertown to receive an honorary Doctor of Law degree landed at our Dover Air Force Base, from where he and his party drove the remaining distance to their destination. I am sure all of us are pleased that President Eisenhower came to our state just as we have enjoyed the visits of other Chief Executives in the past. Our only regret is that the President did not spend more time in Delaware, but time and circumstances prevented him from doing so. Meanwhile, here in Washington, Congress is moving along with the legislative program. (Unintelligible [01:21]) popular attention was still centered on the MacArthur Army hearing, other committees are likewise (unintelligible [01:27]) in the more quiet atmosphere of their respective (unintelligible [01:31]). In the Finance Committee, the big tax bill is still being marked up during the course of executive committee sessions. This means that we are making final additions, deletions, and other changes in the legislation on the basis of testimony received during public hearings from individuals, representatives of business and professional organizations, and others who collectively pay the nation’s tax bill. When committee work on the measure is completed, the bill will go before the whole Senate for further deliberation and, undoubtedly, extended debate. For as you know, there are a number of controversial provisions in the legislation, including a proposal to increase social income tax exemptions from six to eight hundred dollars this year and one thousand dollars thereafter. Another proposal would eliminate the so-called double taxation on dividends. Although the committee has already discussed these sections of the bill, the full Senate can be expected to give them a (unintelligible [02:35]) detailed examination in the course of the approaching debate. During the
past week, the full Senate considered and passed, with much tepidity, a new housing bill, which makes a number of changes on our present housing statute. The bill as approved authorizes a continuation of the Public Housing Program, which many of us believe to be necessary in the interest of low-income families who need but cannot always afford adequate homes which may be available on the open market. We hope the Joint Conference Committee will retain the Public Housing section of the bill. Many persons who follow the activities in Congress have asked whether or not the two houses will adjourn by July the 31st, the tentative target date, or continue their sessions through the summer and perhaps into early fall as has so often happened in the past. The answer to that question is difficult because many events now taking place may have a direct bearing on what Congress does in the weeks immediately ahead. A key to the situation may be found on the fact that the Defense Appropriation Bill, the one which contains a major portion of the fund for national security, is still pending before the Senate Appropriations Committee. It has already passed the House of Representatives, though. As presently (unintelligible [04:05]), this big money bill authorizes about twenty-nine billion dollars for defense purposes during the next fiscal year. However, there is at least a remote possibility that the Senate will be asked to increase the amount of funds in the bill. Should this occur, it would indicate that our military leaders believe that the cost of national security next year will be increasingly high. Of course, a modern preparedness program these days requires a staggering amount of funds, and the United States, conscious of the demand for our own needs, plus our assistance in such areas as Indochina, must weigh its obligations carefully and not shirk its duty. However, it will do no harm to count our dollars carefully in this appropriations bill, as in others. [05:04] I believe the Senate will do that, and I hope that our military establishment will make every effort to conserve their expenditures as well. Otherwise, the excise tax relief, which Congress recently passed, and the benefits in the new tax bill which I mentioned a moment ago may not remain with us for very long.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time.

[End 05:47]