Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library, http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi
This Week In Congress Radio Address: H.R. 7454 The Defense Money Bill, 1959 July 13
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]


Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, 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, Mr. Kelly. This week, the Senate begins debate on the largest single appropriations measure of the year. It is H.R. 7454, the Big Defense Money Bill, which would give to the nation’s military establishments and related agencies nearly forty billion dollars with which to operate their far-flung facilities for the next fiscal year. Implicit in the size of this year’s defense budget is the continuing recognition of threatened Red aggression throughout the world. Synonymous with this is the realization that modern defense costs are continuing to soar in this age of rapidly expanding technical and scientific achievements. It is significant, perhaps, that throughout the consideration of the Defense Appropriations Bill by the House of Representatives, and more recently, the Senate Appropriations Committee, there had been serious discussions and, at times, disagreements, regarding the overall strategy which guides the application of our defense efforts. To be more specific, there is and has been, for some time, a very definite cleavage in certain military quarters over the question of whether our armed forces should concentrate more on preparations for limited warfare than global conflict. Quite naturally, each of the major military services has its own individual estimate of what an adequate defense requires. Therefore, it is to be expected that these individual services would seek to preserve and strengthen their own military organizations, believing that to do so is in the nation’s best interest. Similarly, the civilian heads of our armed services, and especially the Secretary of Defense, are dedicated to preserving and strengthening our national security. They undoubtedly believe that a balanced military organization is essential to meet present and anticipated demands and therefore reach their conclusions of defense requirements after considering the whole subject from the viewpoint of our overall capabilities. National defense, insofar as its strategic and technical, strategic and tactical application is concerned, is a matter for trained military personnel. With all due respect to members of Congress and the general public, many of us do not really understand all that is involved in formulating military strategy. However, there do seem to be definite and increasingly strong indications that special and perhaps increased attention
should be given to the development of military forces which can operate effectively in so-called limited, or brush-fire, wars. Spokesmen for the Department of the Army have publically, and in some instances, privately, expressed very definite opinions that this concept of defense planning is not being provided for adequately. Throughout much of the world today, and especially in Latin America, unstable governments and explosive political situations are almost a daily occurrence. This week, Honduras is the latest example. Sections of the Far East reflect similar pictures of unrest and threatened upheaval. The unsettled Berlin crisis is perhaps the most notable example of a powder keg issue. Thus, the ability of the United States to have ready mobile striking forces capable of deploying nuclear and non-nuclear weapons of a tactical nature is essential. We may require these types of military units far sooner and more frequently than those which would be called upon in the event of another world war. This general question will undoubtedly be developed, at least to some extent, as the Senate debates this year’s Defense Appropriations Bill.

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, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 05:23]