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This Week In Congress Radio Address: President's Veto of National Post Office Workers' Raise,
1955 May 22

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 20th, 1955, and played on WDOV on May 22nd, 1955.

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, Mr. Kelly. A summation of the past week's activities here in Washington must necessarily include two important items of national and international interest as well as a subject of primary concern to us in Delaware. Of important significance in domestic affairs was the decision of the President to disapprove legislation intended to increase the compensation of the Post Office employees. Following receipt of the veto message from the White House, the Congress prepared to vote on the question of upholding or rejecting Mr. Eisenhower's decision. In turning down the legislation, the chief executive was motivated by what he felt were sound reasons. He believed that the Postal Pay Bill was inequitable both in its application and from the point of view of the cost to the Federal government. Many members of Congress, myself included, although recognizing that the bill was imperfect, felt that its general effect would be desirable. Under our constitutional choice, our system of checks and balances within the three branches of government, the Congress is able to override a presidential veto only when two-thirds of the membership of the Senate and House of Representatives, who are present in their respective chambers, vote to do so. It is not wise for me to predict the outcome of this approaching vote, but doubt has been expressed that the veto will be overruled. If it is not, Congress will have the opportunity of taking up new legislation of a type which the President has stated he will support. No matter what the outcome of this present controversy, it is my hope that the Postal Pay Bill and an increase in salary for qualified government employees will be forthcoming. On the international scene, a new debate is already under way over the comparison of the respective air forces of the United States and the Soviet Union. The appearance of a new type of Russian aircraft of an advanced design has caused concern among a number of lawmakers who seem to feel that this country may not have the air superiority which has been generally indicated. Responsible officials in the Department of Defense have endeavored to give assurances

that our nation's air power is adequate. It seems likely that the question will be explored in quite some detail but without risking exposure of any military secrets. As last week grew to a close, my colleague from Delaware, Senator Williams, and myself appeared together before the Senate Appropriations Committee to encourage approval of funds for improvement of various waterways in the state. Senator Williams devoted much of his testimony to projects in Sussex County while my testimony was related principally to the need for starting work on the construction of the new four-lane highway bridge crossing the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at Summit in lower New Castle County. The entire congressional delegation from our state is united in its efforts to obtain funds with which to properly develop and maintain the waterways in our state over which the Federal government has responsibility. We intend to continue the proper interest in these matters until they are successfully concluded.

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 04:58]