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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Comments on the State of the Union Address, 1954
January 13

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on January 11th, 1954, and played on WDOV January 13th, 1954.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. The legislative program in this second session of the Eighty-Third Congress is still in what might be called a preparatory phase. Since the congress convened last week, the biggest, single occurrence was the State of the Union address by the President to a joint session of the two houses. In that presentation, the President laid the ground work for what he hopes will be a productive period of legislative accomplishments. It is both the President's right and duty to make periodic recommendations to the Senate and House of Representatives and to lend the full weight of the executive branch of the government in having these proposals enacted into law. Congress, by the same token, is fully expected to weigh carefully and thoroughly the recommendations of the chief executive before either approving or rejecting them. There has been widespread comment on the presidential message of last Thursday, and already opinion is shaping up on both sides, the Senate and the House, on both sides of his major proposals. Actually, it would be somewhat premature to attempt an opinion on how many of the White House requests will finally be fulfilled. I believe this could be especially true because congress is still awaiting a series of special presidential messages in which more specific legislative requests will be found. The first of these detailed recommendations is expected shortly. Meanwhile, the Senate will undertake consideration of a number of pending bills this week. Measures of what might be called of limited importance which had been held over from the first session of the Eighty-Third Congress. This breathing spell, as we might call it, between the opening of congress and the real start of a legislative program has allowed me time to make several additional visits in the state to groups of citizens who are intensely interested in the activities of their national representatives. One of these groups with whom I visited last week was the Lion's Club at the Hotel Rigby in Laurel. At that meeting, I outlined what I believe to be the major issues which congress will undertake in the months ahead. Another gathering which I attended was the Associated

General Contractor Social Meeting in Wilmington on Saturday. And later that same evening, it was my privilege to address the annual banquet given by the Claymont Volunteer Fire Company, one of the truly fine organizations of this passionate state which renders constant and invaluable service to the residents of Claymont and surrounding areas. At these three gatherings, and one or two additional ones, I had ample opportunity to observe the constantly growing interest in public affairs by men and women of our state. It is indeed highly encouraging to note such an attitude by these citizens of Delaware. This week here in Washington, our Senate Banking and Currency Committee opens hearings on legislation authorizing a study of the exporting for banks and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as they relate to international trade. The recent trips I and other members of our committee made to Central and South America was to obtain a detailed background of information which will be highly useful in the consideration of this legislation. Incidentally, the Kent Inter-American Conference will open March the first in Caracas, Venezuela, and this country will, at that time, have further opportunity to re-emphasize its desire to conduct a policy of affirmative action toward our real friends south of the border. We must, of course, take positive steps to diminish the threat of communism by developing trade relations and other associations beneficial to both ourselves and South America. United States is perhaps not to blame for the inroads made by communists, especially in Central America, but it will take careful diplomatic handling to prevent this red influence from spreading. [05:00] We know now that the communists are bent on exploiting South America to an extent equal to or greater than Europe or Asia, for we must never forget that South America is a back door into the United States. As I have said before, there is a potentially excellent future in matters of trade, cultural ties, as well as hemisphere defense, between North and South America. But a constructive approach on our part is vitally necessary to ensure the success of this relationship. I hope in the course of our hearings, which will begin this week, and in the subsequent debate in the Senate, that congress can help to expand and improve a good neighbor policy with our sister republics in Central and South America.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the second of the current series of weekly reports to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from Washington.

[End 06:13]