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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Communists Agree to Exchange 6 POWs, 1953 April 15  
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear  
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1953, and played on WDOV on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. The past week has brought heartening, though limited, optimism over the possibility of an end to the Korean conflict. With the communists agreeing to an exchange of sick and wounded war prisoners, we are looking forward to the early return of a small number of American soldiers to their homes. All of us have hope that more prisoners would be returned. But if the exchange of the sick and wounded on both sides is satisfactorily carried out, it appears possible that a settlement of the whole prisoner issue can be agreed upon. This, as you know, was the principle stumbling block in the earlier prolonged truce negotiations. With prospects of a cease-fire brightening, it would be only natural to suppose that one of the great and pressing problems in the Far East was being satisfactorily concluded. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Because political and diplomatic questions are already rising amid rumors of peace. Of course, all such questions must be subordinated to an agreement for the cessation of hostilities. But when and if that occurs, we shall have to face subsequent development, just as was done after World War II. It appears virtually certain, for example, that the South Korean government will not agree to the renewal of a divided Korea, such as that which existed before the communists crossed the thirty-eighth parallel. This determination on the part of the Republic of Korea will almost certainly be an unyielding one, no matter where a suggested division of the country is drawn. I believe it quite doubtful that many Americans would be sympathetic to such a proposal either, for it would seemingly recognize an act of aggression by the North Korean and Chinese communists, since their presence in a divided Korea would be maintained. A hint that some thinking on the future of Korea was in progress among high-ranking members of our own government became evident late last week in Washington. It is quite logical that our state department would have to initiate some advanced planning in anticipation of a possible end in the fighting. These discussions, in all probability, concern the status of Formosa, for which, according to statements, a United Nations trusteeship

has been proposed. This whole problem is so very complex and so intertwined with our world-wide foreign policy that any detailed discussion of this would consume hours. But I believe it was noted that any settlement in Korea which does not include adequate safeguards against further aggression would be, to say the least, a compromise of our long-declared objectives. Congressional opinion on these matters is already shaping up rapidly. The interest of the general public and the implications of a Korean settlement is likewise becoming evident. Only a very short memory is required to recall the event which followed World War II as we struggled to win the peace after winning the war. A somewhat longer memory will recall similar efforts to achieve international stability after World War I. And so in summation, it seems to me that we must face up to the fact that an end to the fighting in Korea, if attained, is only the first step for the restoration of world peace. The later step involving a settlement of the potential explosive political questions must somehow be obtained. Failure to do so will simply open the way for further military struggles in the future. As these events progress, it is vitally necessary that we maintain our defense program intact. This means not only a continuation of a limited military production, it also requires keeping intact our armed forces in strategic locations. [05:06] The long and arduous months which have followed the outbreak of the Korean conflict have seen the United States vastly increase its ability to halt aggression. Apparently, the Kremlin recognizes what the consequences would be if an attempt was made to foment war on a worldwide scale. But our battle is only half-won and the cost has already been frightful. We must stand firm and ready for whatever the future will bring.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the fifteenth in 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 06:06]