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This Week In Congress Radio Address: POW Exchange in Korea, 1953 April 9

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 1st, 1953, and played on WDOV on April 9th, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. Several weeks ago, in a public statement, I had occasion to discuss the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war in Korea. At that time, it was my suggestion that United States representatives at the United Nations explore the possibility of bringing about an agreement between the Chinese communists and the United Nations forces which would lead to the repatriation of such prisoners as rapidly as possible. Within the past week, indications that the communists are willing to consider such an arrangement have been heard, and, of course, the United States and its allies are agreeable to negotiating the matter promptly. Our long and difficult relationship with the Kremlin, whose leaders unquestionably control the Chinese and North Korean communist regimes, has led us to be extremely wary of any proposal which comes from behind the Iron Curtain. Too often, as in the cases of the earlier truce talks, has an offer of a peaceful settlement of differences been made not for honest motives, but for the sake of improving the communist position while the questions at issue were under discussion. It could be that the newest communist moves with respect to the situation in Korea are well-intended. If so, an eventual settlement of that tragic conflict now raging may conceivably occur. But it is vitally necessary that this country in particular, scrutinize with greatest care the implications of the communists suggestions for negotiations of any type. None of us can forget, I am sure, that the United States has suffered the brunt of the losses in Korea. Thousands of our finest young men have been killed. Still other thousands are missing or have been maimed. We cannot be certain of how many prisoners the reds hold nor what their fate has been. The overwhelming anxiety of families, whose loved ones are held captives, is at a time, such as this, most understandable. The prospect of having these prisoners return home is a great and hopeful expectation. But as much as we long for a settlement, it would be foolhardy to make any agreement to make any agreement with the communists which is not all-embracing in

its scope. For example, little would be gained if the Kremlin allowed the fighting to end in Korea only to renew it in a larger scale in Indochina, Burma, or some other sensitive area in the Far East. The natural wariness which we have developed to any Russian peace overture is a wise and prudent one. The world is weary of conflict and turmoil. And it is believed that the millions of our men, women, and children behind the Iron Curtain are as deeply anxious for peace as we are here in the Western world. But the old conviction of peace at any price cannot and must not be allowed to prevail.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the fourteenth 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 04:43]