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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Postal Service on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1959 June 22
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on June 22nd, 1959.

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. Over a period of some months, I have received a number of inquiries, and in some instances, complaint, regarding the general pattern of mail deliveries on the Delmarva Peninsula. It is only natural in such a large organization as the Post Office Department that occasional errors and misjudgments would occur in the handling of the millions of letters and parcels which are sent and received by the American people. On the whole, I think most of us will agree that service by the Post Office Department is consistently good thanks to the devoted attention of postmasters, clerks, and carriers, and the other men and women who in one way or another help to get the mail to its destination. With regard to the particular situation which seems to exist on the Delmarva Peninsula, it has been brought to my attention that the methods and schedules for transmitting mail among various communities is often less than adequate. For instance, not long ago, it was pointed out that letters mailed from our towns in the state and addressed to cities such as Philadelphia, New York, or Washington, are generally received quite promptly. But letters and periodicals sent between two towns in the same county or to a nearby community in an adjacent county often seem to require an unusual amount of time for delivery. In discussing this matter with a number of people, I find that there is no general criticism of the processing of mail within individual post offices. Rather, the delays occur because of irregular or infrequent pick-ups from the post offices and transportation to the assigned postal station. It may be that past delays in the service can be satisfactorily explained. And in fairness to all, I would undertake to pass no judgement on who, if anyone, is clearly at fault. However, in view of the fact that reports of irregular deliveries have persisted, I've decided to ask the Post Office Department to look into the matter and furnish me with a report of its delivery schedules and methods of transporting mail on our peninsula. If in preparing this data it is found that improvements can be made, I shall certainly urge the department strongly to act without delay to put such improvements into effect. In connection with my request to the department for a study of the entire matter, I will certainly welcome the views and comments of residents of Delaware regarding the status of their mail

service, especially as it pertains to the dates and time it takes for letters, periodicals, and packages to reach their destination after being mailed at our post offices. I suppose of all the services rendered by the Federal government, none is of more constant and intimate concern to the American people than the delivery of mail. Nothing is more disappointing to an individual than to be confronted with a delay in receiving important letters when it is known that they are en route and that they should arrive at a given time, but do not. Therefore, because of my interest and desire to constantly encourage every improving efficiency both within the Post Office Department and its many, far-flung operations, I feel compelled and quite desirous of seeking the inquiry which I've just discussed. On another matter, and for the information of many Delawareans who have been in touch with me from time to time, the Senate and House conferees on the big highway construction bill have completed their review of the legislation, and it appears likely that final action on this most important measure will be taken soon by Congress so that the bill can be sent to the White House for the expected approval.

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]