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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Appropriation of Government Funds for VA Hospital in
Delaware, 1953 May 27

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 25th, 1953, and played on WDOV on May 27th, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. Congress is now looking towards a consideration of major appropriation bills for the next fiscal year. Needless to say, this is a very exacting and tremendously important responsibility. As we all know, efforts are being made to reduce Federal expenditures in order to relieve some of the heavy impact of taxation. The problem of where and to what extent reductions can be made is the crux of the situation. Few, if any, Federal agencies believe their budget should be cut. All feel that their operations are justifiable and in the public interest. For example, scores of Delawareans have written me in recent days to recommend that adequate funds be made available for the operation of the Veteran's Administration, including our veteran's hospital. These personas, many of whom represent veteran's groups want to make certain that our former servicemen receive the fullest possible measure of medical care and other benefits in view of their contributions to the defense of the country. Another example of an appropriation which has the interest of a great many Delaware citizens concerns funds for the continued operation of our weather station at the New Castle County Airport. There is a possibility that because of a budget reduction within the Department of Commerce, a number of weather stations throughout the country may have to be closed. It is felt in many responsible quarters that the presence of our weather station in New Castle is absolutely essential for commercial aviation and to provide reports to private citizens as well. I can cite other instances where appropriations are deemed quite necessary in the public interest. On the broader aspects of this situation is the question of appropriations for our national defense. In this connection, concern has been expressed over the proposed reduction of over five billion dollars for the Department of the Air Force. The estimate for our needs for providing adequate security to the operation of our vast defense program is a responsibility which can only be met by proven experts within the Department of Defense. All of us are aware with the growing importance of air power,

especially in view of the rapid development of long-range aircraft capable of carrying atomic weapons. Since many members of congress have studied our military program, it is virtually certain that extensive debate will center around President Eisenhower's request for such a substantial cut in Air Force funds. Delaware, because it is a coastal state, is necessarily concerned with the possible effect of strategic bombing from an enemy approaching from the sea. Our concentration of industry and our defense installations would indeed make desirable targets. For that reason, among others, I shall certainly be greatly interested in the discussion over the Air Force budget. But it is well to keep in mind that the revised estimate of the Air Force's needs was determined by the President. There are few, if any, authorities on military affairs more qualified to speak than Mr. Eisenhower. As the commander of Allied Forces in Europe in World War II, and more recently as leader of our North Atlantic Treaty Unity, he has had to make assessments on a broad scale of our military needs and those of many other nations. Therefore, the President should know whereof he speaks in such matters. In addition, it is logical to suppose that the Secretary of Defense has made his own careful analysis. If the country can be assured of completely adequate air power to meet our present and anticipated requirements, and if this can be accomplished safely, even with the reduction of five billion dollars in the Air Force budget, congress and the people will be well satisfied. [05:04] But if there is any question of uncertainty, if we are taking a calculated risk in any way, then congress will have to be assured that no other course of action is possible if the country's economy is to be kept on the level of stability. My own efforts have promptly been directed toward economy indefinitely. I shall applaud the President's decision in this matter if the facts show it to be a proven sound one. But we cannot unjustly risk any uncertainty in the matter of ensuring completely adequate air strength. The odds would be too great against us.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the twenty-first of 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 06:13]