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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Entrance Exams to West Point and Annapolis, 1953 June
17

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

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on June 15th, 1953, and played on WDOV on June 17th, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. I want to address these remarks in particular to the young men of Delaware who are interested in entering the United States Military Academy at West Point or the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. Periodically as a member of congress, I have the opportunity of appointing a limited number of Delawareans to these respective schools so that they can carry out their ambitions for a professional career as an officer in the military service. In these days when the defense of the country is so vital, it is important that we have able and desirable young men graduating from Annapolis and West Point who can take their places in military leadership in the years ahead. Since it first became my privilege to nominate candidates at the two academies, I have followed the method of competitive examination in choosing those who are to receive appointments. As vacancies in my corner have observed, the civil service commission has, at my request, administered tests to qualified Delawareans who have advised me of their desire to participate. The chief purpose of this statement, then, is to officially advise young men of Delaware and their families that I will make a total of five new principal appointments to the service academies for the class beginning July, 1954. Two of the five appointments will be made to the United States Military Academy; the other three to the United States Naval Academy. For each principal candidate, three separate alternate appointments will also be made. The alternates are designated so that in the event a principal candidate does not qualify physically or mentally in his final entry examination, a successor will be readily available to take his place. This year, the examination for all appointments will be conducted on Monday, July 13th. The test will be administered in both Wilmington and in Dover. These dual arrangements were made so that no one in the state will have to travel an excessive distance to reach an examining location. A number of young men have already requested information from me regarding the

next examination. And within the past few days, I have advised them of where and when the test will take place. However, I am sure there are other Delaware boys who would also be interested in competing, and therefore I intend to list locations to advise them accordingly. Any boy who believes he is physically qualified, who is a citizen of the state, and who has successfully completed four years of high school, has attained the age of seventeen, but will not reach his twenty-second birthday until July 1st, 1954, is eligible to take my examination. However, it is necessary for each boy to write me requesting authorization, which I will give in the form of a letter to be presented at the place of examination on July the 13th. Perhaps I should emphasize that one of the most important subjects included in these tests is mathematics; therefore, I suggest that all prospective applicants make a special effort to be proficient in this subject before the test is taken. I should also like to emphasize that appointments to the United States Military and Naval Academies are made with the expectation that those receiving them will pursue a career in the armed forces upon completion of their course of study. The cost of educating young men at Annapolis and West Point is quite high. It is paid for by the United States government through taxes collected from the American people. And so, in a very real sense, the graduates of these schools have a definite obligation to their country, and to their government, which has made possible their military education. Some of America's greatest patriots have graduated from West Point and Annapolis. Many of them have not only been outstanding military leaders, but in addition, they have qualified themselves as statesmen, diplomats, and administrators as well. It is my hope that those who are entering these two schools next year from Delaware will acquit themselves to the same high degree as many of their predecessors have in earlier years from the first state.

[05:08]

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the twenty-fourth 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 05:34]