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This Week In Congress Radio Address: McCarthy's Investigation; Hawaiian Statehood Bill,  
1954 March 17

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1954, and played on WDOV on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1954.

Mr. Kelly: United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Transcribed. Here is Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you. The past week in Washington has indeed been one of unusual excitement. The newspaper headlines and the radio and television reports have been filled with discussion and comments concerning the running controversy between the junior Senator from Wisconsin and his investigating subcommittee on the one hand and the Department of the Army and other segments of the executive branch of government on the other. I am sure we all hope that some way can be found to adjust these differences, for certainly, attention and effort are being diverted by both members of congress and of the executive branch of government from many other pressing matters while this controversy continues. The Senate, however, did, during the past week, reach an important decision concerning the question of statehood for the territories of Hawai'i and Alaska. By a vote of forty-six to forty-three, it amended the Hawai'ian Statehood Bill to include Alaska. This means that in voting on the measure, the Senate will be deciding whether both Alaska and Hawai'i are to be added to the Federal Union. It is difficult to say how long the debate will continue on this question. A number of Senators' desire to express themselves on the merits of Hawai'ian statehood. Others will want to talk about Alaska. And some have comments to offer concerning both of the territories. As for my personal views, which have already been expressed, it is my feeling that we should consider both of these territories together and not separately, and that is why I supported the motion to include Alaska in the Hawai'ian Statehood Bill.

While the main body in the Senate is occupied on this question, the issue of taxes is turning, in part, to the Senate Finance Committee, where the House-approved Excise Tax Bill is up for consideration. Relief from excise taxes is being strongly sought by many business people. And in the past week, representatives of various industries in Delaware have called on us to discuss the situation. I am frankly hopeful that congress will

approve a reasonable reduction in excise taxes because I feel that such a step will help stimulate purchases of those items now taxable. I am certainly not unaware of the specter of deficit financing and of our unbalanced Federal budget, nor is there any desire on my part to deprive the Treasury of needed revenue to meet the cost of government. However, the internal economy of the United States must, under no circumstances, be allowed to slow down. I feel there is more wisdom in granting tax concessions so as to place more money in circulation than in resorting to possible Federal pump-priming which might occur if unemployment becomes too serious. If it is necessary to reduce other appropriations, such as those for foreign aid, in order to make up for the loss of revenue which a tax reduction would bring, I feel I would favor that step. The American people have indeed been extremely generous in providing billions upon billions of dollars for economic and military assistance for our allied nations. In the present situation, it becomes inevitable that we take necessary action to protect our own welfare.

This week will bring a great many Delawareans to Washington. The largest groups will be members of three of our schools, and we expect to see them all on Friday. First will be the fifth grade class from Seaford. Next, the senior class from Rehoboth Beach. And then, the senior class from Middletown. On this same day at noon, I am scheduled to address an annual meeting of the YWCA members here in the nation's capital, and then it is my intention to leave for Seaford for what I know will be a pleasant evening with the members of the Kiwanis Club. [05:16] If time permits while in Seaford, I hope to visit briefly with the members of Nanticoke Post Number Six of the American Legion, who are celebrating their thirty-sixth birthday.

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.

[End 05:47]