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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Threat of Civil War In Iraq, 1959 March 9

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 9th, 1959.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, 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. Congress has begun a new week with its interests again focused largely on the international events both in Europe and the Middle East. As discussions and negotiations continue over the Berlin crisis, a reported disturbance of serious proportions developed in oil-rich Iraq, where a dispute between left- and right-wing elements threaten civil strife. The unstable Middle East is always a potential danger zone, and thus any reoccurrence of violence in that part of the world causes immediate repercussions and apprehension, especially among the leaders of the West. Against this background, the Senate turns this week to consideration of two important defense matters. First, an extension of the military draft law already passed by the House of Representatives, and secondly, authorization of additional funds in connection with our research and development of outer space. With regard to the extension of the selective service law, many believe it is necessary that this statute be continued. Although military service is an inconvenience and at times a sacrifice for our young men, we as a nation are pretty well convinced that without adequate preparedness, which means the availability of trained manpower, the dangers to our country and those of our allies would be materially increased. Our uniformed personnel, both in the active and reserve components of the armed forces, constitute probably the most important single element in our overall national defense program. I say this, for despite the advance in rockets and missiles, and the use of air and sea power, there has been, as yet, no effective substitute found for the presence of ground troops in any military emergency. This was quite evident when the last Middle East crisis erupted some months ago. At that time, you will recall, the United States quickly moved troops into the Middle East and no doubt staved off a serious international upheaval. In the present Berlin crisis, American troops in the area would probably be the first ones called upon to defend our interests in the event of an outbreak of trouble. Meanwhile, as attention focuses on potential trouble spots, in Geneva, negotiators from East and West are still assembled, discussing the question of agreement on limiting nuclear explosions, if not suspending them entirely, for the sake of Humanity everywhere. Reports

of increasing radiation stemming from the atmospheric tests of atomic and hydrogen bombs are causing particular concern among some scientists, government leaders, and others. This problem is more fundamental and, in the long run, more imperative than any other which we face because, if the dire results of accumulating radioactive fallout are as drastic as science predicts, the world will either force the elimination of nuclear experiments which release radiation, or reap the awful consequences which are the alternative.

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 04:54]