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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Domestic Economy, 1959 April 13

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. With the arrival of the spring season, it is customary to look for an upsurge in the nation's economic outlook, resulting from renewed activity in such things as home construction, farming, highways, and industrial building. Increased hiring follows as the country moves from the comparative quiet of the winter period into the warmer months. This pattern is one we regularly expect each year. Thus, when the government announced last week that the number of unemployed workers had declined and employment had significantly increased, it was welcome but not totally unexpected news. Coincident with the optimistic report on employment, there occurred here in Washington a meeting arranged by the leaders of organized labor to focus attention on the number of people still out of work and to encourage further assistance by the Federal government in promoting more jobs. At this conference, the number of interesting addresses were delivered by representatives of both government and labor. One speaker, the majority leader of the Senate, proposed in his remarks the creation of a joint legislative executive commission which would recommend Federal action to combat unemployment. Subsequent to Senator Johnson's proposal, the Senate last Friday approved a resolution implementing the majority leader's recommendation. House action shortly is also likely. The commission established by the resolution will be made up of selected members of the Senate and House and from appointments by the President. It will examine areas of high unemployment and make recommendations for corrective action within the next two or three months. Certainly, this commission has the best wishes for success as it sets out on its mission, for while it will find no difficulty in locating areas where unemployment is higher than in others, the necessary remedial action may be harder to prescribe. At a time when well over sixty-three million people are working, it would seem that the nation's economic health is sound, and so it is, to a great extent. But in some states, people are looking for jobs in their field of endeavor, but not finding them at all or only on a part-time basis. These people are the ones whom he commission will seek to help through its recommendations. Since there

are always a number of people out of work, even in the most prosperous times, we can never expect one hundred percent employment everywhere. The task at hand is to find ways and means of firming up the soft places in the jobless picture by whatever practical and sensible means are possible. We in Delaware are generally more fortunate than some of our fellow citizens in other states which have suffered from depressed economic conditions. But the nation's economic welfare and its forward progress are better served by affording opportunities for gainful employment to all who are willing to expend the necessary effort. Congress, which must legislate on national issues, may find in the commission's report, when available, a helpful and important guide in subsequent legislative deliberation on this subject. At least the Senate and House should have a first-hand, and hopefully reliable series, of recommendations upon which to presume its discussions. I am glad that Congress is moving as swiftly to activate this commission, and I believe that Majority Leader Johnson is to be commended for an imaginative and forward-looking idea in suggesting its establishment.

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 05:20]**