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This Week In Congress Radio Address: S. 940 Tidelands Off-Shore Drilling Bill, 1953 July 8
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on July 1st, 1953, and played on WDOV on July 8th, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. Congress has enacted two important and significant bills during recent weeks here in Washington. One was the so-called Tidelands Bill, which gives jurisdiction to the coastal states of land beneath the water out to their (unintelligible **[00:56]**) boundaries. The second bill approved by congress for Federal development and control of an area known as the outer continental shelf, which is located seaward of the state's boundaries. A large quantity of petroleum deposits and minerals are believed located in these offshore areas. The coastal states, under the new law, will be authorized to explore and develop the tidelands, which are a part of their own areas. The Federal government will exercise similar authority in the lands beyond the state markers. A vastly greater amount of mineral deposits and petroleum is believed located within this area that is the outer continental shelf. Perhaps I should define the continental shelf. It is made up of those lands which begin at the low water mark along the open sea or at the seaward boundary of inland waters, such as bays, ports, and the mouths of rivers, and extend seaward for varying distances at different places. Actually, the continental shelves are portions of the various continents of the world. They are slightly submerged under the seas, and surround all the continental areas of the earth. In some places, the shelves are broad; in other places, they are quite narrow. For example, along the Atlantic coast, which is of interest to Delaware because we are a coastal state, the continental shelf is generally very broad. Of the New England coast, the shelf extends about two hundred and fifty miles out into the sea. Elsewhere along this area, the shelf ranges in width from about forty to about one hundred miles, except for a narrow strip along the east coast of Florida. As a part of the legislation establishing Federal control of the outer continental shelf, the Senate approved an amendment whereby revenues of paying for the petroleum and mineral deposits contained in those lands will be dedicated to the support of our nation's schools. We all know that the education in the United States, generally, needs financial

support for such things as new school buildings, teacher's salaries, and operating expenses. Off shore oil in the continental shelf, when converted into revenue, seems capable of filling a great and urgent need for the generations of young Americans who will be entering our schools in future years. It is necessary for me to point out, however, that the Oil for Education amendment has not yet been finally disapproved by congress. As I mentioned, it is a part of the bill passed by the Senate, placing the outer continental shelf under Federal control. Although the House of Representatives approved a similar bill, it did not pass the amendment dedicating revenue from these lands to educational purposes. A Conference Committee composed of members of the two houses of congress will soon meet to resolve the differences between the two versions of the legislation. It is my strong hope, and I think that of many Delawareans and other Americans, that the Oil for Education amendment will be retained and made a permanent part of this significant and highly important legislation.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the twenty-seventh 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 04:40]