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This Week In Congress Radio Address: 4th of July Celebration Address, 1953 July 1

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on June 18th, 1953, and played on WDOV on July 1st, 1953.

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

Senator Frear: Thank you. One hundred and seventy-seven years ago this week, the American colonies, through their representatives, made the decision to declare themselves free and independent. That date in 1776 is one of the great and glorious days of history, for what happened in Philadelphia was the adoption of a new and revolutionary idea that changed the course of civil government. In a very real sense, it was an affirmation of the individual dignity of men, which is their basic right to creation. Indeed, the Declaration of Independence might well be called the miracle of America, for it established the fact that every man's future in this country is for the most part within his own control, and it is this principle which has enabled Americans in the period of one hundred and seventy-seven years to expand from a narrow fringe of people along the eastern seaboard all the way across an entire continent, and at the same time, to outstrip every other nation of the world in progress. Such a record, which we review annually on Independence Day, suggests, to my mind, something of a celebration for what America has accomplished in its own behalf, and for the benefit of millions of other people throughout the world. Because these days are so filled with turmoil, it may seem to some that a celebration of the Fourth of July is somewhat out of place. I wonder if that is really the case. On every other day of the year, we are directly involved in matters concerning the preservation of our way of life. We fight, we debate, we do all sorts of work in an effort to sustain and advance the cause of democracy. Surely then, it is not inconsistent for us to take self-recognition of Independence Day, and use that brief period to manifest our confidence in the American way of life. After all, who is better equipped to sing the praises of freedom than the people of America? It might, perhaps, do all of us some good to put aside briefly our internal differences and join together in a demonstration of patriotism, which will resound mightily around the world. We know that our ideals of liberty and human rights, so magnificently expressed in the Declaration of

Independence, have been realized and practiced within our borders to a far greater degree than anywhere else in the world. Moreover, the spirit of independence that was sparked in America has become a flame, which has fanned out beyond our own shores and has helped to engender the meaning of liberty to many other people. Naturally, because of our deep sense of responsibility to ourselves and the rest of the world, we cannot for long lay aside our obligations. Indeed, it is incumbent upon us that we remain ever vigilant to the threat against our way of life which hovers over us from across the seas. It is our constant duty and trust to see that this nation stands firm and ready for any eventuality. We will constantly need to exhibit the same high courage that marked the lives of our revolutionary forefathers and the countless other American patriots whose names stretch from the day when the first shots of the revolution were fired across the span of many years to Korea. But let us on the Fourth of July, at least for a few moments, give honest, if tempered, jubilation on behalf of our nation's origin and history. Ours is not the gloating of a conqueror, nor is it an attitude of complacency and smugness. Rather, it is a feeling of self-respect, honor, and freedom, which can only come from a nation and a people which have met and carried out the responsibilities before them.

[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-sixth 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.

[05:33]