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This Week In Congress Radio Address: S.J.R. 126 Addition to Pledge of Allegiance,
1954 June 2
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 28th, 1954, and played on WDOV on June 2nd, 1954.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, 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. The United States Senate has recently and unanimously approved a joint resolution which is perhaps one of the most significant proposals to come before Congress in a hundred years. Unlike so many other bills and resolutions offered by the House and Senate, this legislation has not been controversial. Rather, it is a matter which has attracted favorable attention of many loyal citizens all over the United States as well as their representatives here in Washington. This Senate Joint Resolution Number 126 adds two words to our historic Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. I am sure that almost every school child and millions of other Americans can recite it by memory. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. That is the pledge in its present form. Under the joint resolution, it would be changed by striking out the words "one nation indivisible" and inserting, "one nation, under God, indivisible." What is actually proposed, therefore, is basically the inclusion of the two words "under God." The idea which motivated the introduction of this resolution apparently stems from the fact that the United States this year is celebrating the one hundred and forty-fifth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. In his immortal Gettysburg Address, Lincoln recognized that only "under God" could this nation win a new birth of Freedom. The President of the United States has reaffirmed the principle that the United States was created and preserved under God. Having just concluded the observance of another Memorial Day, during which we again paid tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives on the battlefield, it became all the more fitting that we appropriately symbolize our conviction that this nation is constantly striving to preserve the individual rights which inherently belong to mankind and which provide for freedom of choice and action. In much of the world today, a philosophy exists which teaches that the State is the absolute and single authority over men, and that religion, if allowed to

exist at all, must be subordinated to the authority of the civil government. In the enactment of Senate Joint Resolution Number 126, the Senate of the United States has thus taken an historic step towards reaffirming this nation's belief that only under the guidance of Divine Providence can we remain united, indivisible, and free. The attention being given this legislation by the United States Congress is in sharp contrast with the unfortunate attitude within the United Nations organization, which upon the day of its opening, failed to begin its proceedings with a customary prayer for guidance. This lack of recognition was decided upon in deference to the representatives of some nations present at the assembly. Many people have long felt that the deliberations of this world body would have been more successful had it been willing to recognize the fact that only through divine guidance can we expect to accomplish our objective. Happily for the United States, the history of our republic began with a marked interest and devotion to the practices of religion. This is certainly a tribute to the leaders of our respective faiths. With the approval of Joint Resolution 126 by the Senate, we are openly demonstrating to the rest of the world that our future endeavors, as in the past, we intend to go forward not alone, but with the strength and vigor, which can only come to us from our Creator.

[05:01]

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 can be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 05:24]