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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Delaware School Children Visit Washington, DC,
1954 June 23

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The week in Congress, recorded on June 18th, 1954, and played on WDOV on June 23rd, 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. Of all the activities in which I have had the privilege of participating during the past five and one-half years here in the nation's capital, none has given me more pleasure than the opportunity of meeting with the younger generation of Delawareans who have visited my office in steadily increasing numbers since 1949. These young people, students in our public, private, and parochial schools came to Washington not only to sight-see among the historic landmarks here, but to obtain, at least, a preliminary insight into the functions of our Democratic form of government. In 1949, the first year of my service here as a United States Senator, a total of fifteen different school groups, representing several hundred boys and girls, called at our office. By 1953, the number of groups had more than doubled. In actual numbers, more than two thousand people afforded me the pleasure of a personal greeting last year. The number of students this year who have visited with us is equally as large. After noting the interest of those Delaware pupils who came during my first year of office, I decided to make an effort to encourage even larger numbers of students to see the national capital, and in particular, to attend a session of the Senate or House of Representatives. It seemed to me that this was an ideal method of introducing the students to the actual procedure of our two great legislative bodies. Many of our school authorities took advantage of the invitations to which we extended and came here not only to witness the formal meetings of Congress, but to attend various committee sessions as well. Furthermore, and I believe this to be especially significant, a number of the individual students during their visits here ask questions regarding legislative and other current matters in which they or their classes had a particular interest. In glancing through our visitor's records for 1954, I note that school groups from all three of our counties, New Castle, Kent, and Sussex, and of course, Wilmington, were represented. I might add that some of the individual boys and girls after visiting Washington with their class returned a second

time with their parents. This, of course, has been especially gratifying, since it helped to broaden family interests in international affairs. Without question, the most important influence on the students was that of their teachers and chaperones. It is not an easy task in crowded Washington to successfully guide rather large groups of young people through the various places of interest and at the same time retain their active interest. The fact that this responsibility was borne so well by the adults who accompanied the students is a tribute to the ability and patience of those capable men and women. I often wonder whether or not those of us who are parents appreciate the tremendous obligation which confronts our teachers in these days of large school populations. Nothing is more important to the future of any individual than the impressions and habits often formed during the primary and secondary school years. To the teacher and school administrators who carry out the demanding assignment of providing proper guidance on a day-by-day basis, we surely owe a vote of thanks. Now that the current school year has come to a close, it is doubtful that we will have any more group trips from the boys and girls of our Delaware schools. It is to be hoped, however, that next year will find even larger numbers of our people visiting the congressional delegation in the nation's capital. Although Washington becomes a rather hot and humid city during the summer months, it is expected that the Senate and House of Representatives will carry on their work until at least the end of July and probably later. [04:59] Between now and adjournment, may I express the hope that vacationing Delawareans interested in the activities of the government in these rather tense and sometimes precarious days will not hesitate to come here whenever convenient to see for themselves, as so many other children have already, the important and significant deliberation of their Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

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 05:50]