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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures, 1956 May 31  
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear  
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1956.

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, Mr. Kelly. There exists in the Congress a joint committee made up of selected members from both the House and Senate which bears the title of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures. We might best describe this committee in the category of a watchdog. Its function, as the title indicates, is to encourage the lessening of government spending by all logical means. Periodically as part of its activities, the committee chairman issued a statement covering the statistics on civilian employment within the agencies of the Federal government. This report is intended to show, first of all, the number of government employees on hand at any given time, and secondly, the increase or decrease in this total from month to month. For instance, in its report issued last week, the Joint Committee reported civilian employment during the month of April as totaling two million, three hundred and fifty-nine thousand, six hundred and eleven. This large number of individuals thus perhaps afford a quick impression of the size and magnitude of our national government. One note from these figures that Federal activities have vastly increased in comparatively recent years, and as a result, it annually takes many millions of dollars to pay the salaries of the men and women who are on the government payroll. Incidentally, the number of Federal civilian employees on hand as of April the first represents an increase of approximately seven thousand persons over the preceding months. So actually, though the number of Federal employees is always very large, it seems to be increasing further. Another interesting fact is that the total of two million, three hundred and fifty-nine thousand, six hundred and eleven civilian employees does not include another large group of foreign nationals working for the United States Military Agency. This number totals an additional two hundred and ninety-seven thousand, seven hundred and ninety. Of course, none of these figures include the men and women in our armed forces. I am taking the occasion to mention this matter of civilian employment in the government because it is one of the expenses for which Congress must appropriate funds as we approach the start of a new fiscal year. So much

is heard of appropriation for foreign aid, or the development of new weapons and other military equipment, and for a host of other varied goods and services which are deemed necessary that the salaries of government personnel who actually implement these various programs are not, perhaps always, separately estimated. We who work here in Washington are probably more conscious of the role of the government worker than many people back home because we have so many Federal employees in the national capital. The Joint Committee on Non-Essential Expenditures furnishes Congress with these statistics on the number of employees in government service so that the members of the Senate and House can, if they choose, discuss the matter with the people of the various states as I am attempting to do in this brief message. Such information is significant, I believe, when mention is made of the possibility of reducing Federal Income Taxes, always a popular issue among government wage earners as well as those in private employment. Since we are all obligated to pay Federal taxes whether we work for the government or not, it is not my intention to suggest that a tax cut would be clearly possible if we drastically reduced the number of employees in the government, but I am sure that some reductions are always possible in the personnel category. [05:03] However, I do think it advisable for us to realize the financial requirements and obligations which the Federal government must meet regularly from the tax dollars paid to the Federal treasury. It is for this reason that the Joint Committee exists, and those of us interested in cutting back on non-essential expenditures try to support the committee's position to a practical extent as much as possible.

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 05:59]**