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

Senator Frear: Thank you. We are approaching the end of another winter of conflict in Korea. All efforts to end the fighting there, either by truce negotiation, by discussions within the United Nations, or by any other method, have proven fruitless. The realization grows that unless Soviet Russia chooses to intervene directly and call off the conflict, this country and other allied nations must continue to hold the line and fight the aggressive communists in that section of the world, perhaps indefinitely. Talk of replacing all American troops by South Koreans is encouraging, but by no means a reality. The introduction of Chinese Nationalist troops from Formosa is also a subject of discussion, but no definite action has resulted. Taken all together, the situation in the Far East therefore remains a grim and gravely disturbing problem to the people of the United States. In recent days, a suggestion has been made for exchanging sick and wounded prisoners of war between the opposing sides. It is known, of course, that the so-called prisoner issue was a major stumbling block in the earlier truce negotiation because the communists insisted on forceful repatriation of the prisoners from their side, which we now hold. Since many of these former red soldiers do not want to return, the United States naturally refused to yield. So I have not, as yet, thoroughly explored the full implications of the proposal to exchange sick and wounded prisoners, it seems as though such a possibility ought to be considered carefully by our military authorities in the hope that perhaps successful negotiations with the communists along these lines might be carried out. The fate of American and allied soldiers now held in prison is a most uncertain one. We have only the word of the communist leaders themselves that our prisoners which they hold are being treated in accordance with the rules of war. Families in Delaware and elsewhere who have loved ones listed as prisoners of war are undergoing tremendous worry and anxiety over their welfare. As we all know, efforts to successfully negotiate any issue with the communists is frankly hopeless. But while any opportunity exists for possible success, I trust that the prisoner of war issue, as it affects the sick and wounded on
both sides, will be raised for consideration by our representatives at the
United Nations or through whatever other channels are most desirable. It
has been suggested that if a solution could be reached on the exchange of
sick and wounded prisoners, a further agreement might develop on the
exchange of all other prisoners as well. During the past week, our chief
delegate at the United Nations again laid the blame on the Soviet Union
for fomenting the aggression of the North Koreans and the Chinese
communists against the Republic of South Korea. The supplying of the
red forces there by Russia with planes and many other types of military
equipment clearly fixes the responsibility for the Korean conflict on the
Kremlin. But since Russian troops are not directly involved, it is quite
understandable that the Soviet leaders would not be unduly concerned
about any of the Chinese or North Korean soldiers. Russia cares little or
nothing for their fate, and apparently is preventing the Chinese
communists from expressing any genuine sentiments of their own over the
welfare of their captured countrymen, even if they cared to. [05:00] Such
a situation, of course, further complicates prisoner of war negotiations.
Nevertheless, any steps which can perhaps be developed to revive the
prisoner of war issue should, I believe, be undertaken as promptly as
possible, in the interests of the American and allied servicemen, who are
now enduring unknown hardship and privation in lonely prison camps
behind the enemy line.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard
United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the ninth 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 05:54]