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Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear brings to the people of Delaware the first in his series of weekly reports for 1954. These statements touching on current congressional affairs will be heard regularly each week at this time during the second session of the Eighty-Third Congress. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: It has become the annual custom with the beginning of each new year to offer predictions on what the next twelve months will bring to the nation and to the world in the way of social and economic advancements. Leaders in virtually all segments of our national life, from the President on down, take advantage of this occasion to outline the many problems that confront us, and to express the hope and conviction that the greatness of America is such as to sustain our present way of life and expand and improve its potentialities for the welfare of all. Such sentiments are indeed encouraging and are welcome by all of us who have a stake in the future of the United States, and that certainly includes every loyal American. Actually, of course, the major responsibilities confronting us as a nation in 1954 are pretty well known since they have been in existence for some time. We might list them broadly as a continuation of our national defense, the maintenance of a strong, internal economy, and a harmonious relationship with the friendly nations of the world. These are the three essentials which might be said to encompass the general scope of our endeavors in the immediate future. The fulfillment of these goals depends on the cooperation and good will, not only of our national leaders in government, but the leaders of industry, labor, business, the professions, and in particular, our religious advisors, who guide the nation’s spiritual destiny. From the time when this republic was first born, men and women have talked and worked and prayed for its future, and these efforts have most assuredly proven successful. For now, in this, the latter half of the tumultuous Twentieth Century, the United States has reached a degree of success in almost every undertaking that was never obtained by any nation in the whole period of recorded history. The big question is, at the moment, then, shall we, in 1954, proceed onward and upward? I am supremely confident that we will. And I believe that most of you share that same opinion. There may be times of difficulty and trial, of
uncertainty and apprehension. These are the eventualities of living, which confront humans everywhere. But there is every reason to hope that we shall see these problems through, and emerge at the end of 1954 more confident and successful than ever. In the months ahead, many national and international affairs will find their way into the halls of congress for debate and discussion. There will surely be the usual differences of opinion that accompany our democratic processes. Perhaps at times, these differences will become acutely sharp and will be reflected throughout our land by millions of citizens who choose to stand on one side of the question or other. In themselves, such differences are normal and healthy, for they stimulate greater interest and concern in matters affecting each of us. It is only when issues become clouded with prejudice or selfishness that the value of discussion is lost. Because of the existence of our two-party system in America, it is logical to assume that differences in political convictions will motivate a substantial part of the debate attendant to the consideration of the congressional program. As one who has been highly privileged to serve in the United States for these… United States Senate for these past five years, I should like to express the hope, as we begin this new year, that congress, without regard for its political sensitivities, will approach its tasks with as much objectivity and statesmanship as is humanely possible. [05:09] In these days, the American people are perhaps better informed and more conscious of national and international affairs than ever before. They are able to measure and judge the work of congress to a highly accurate degree. This awareness of public concern will, I am sure, help to keep all of us constantly alert to ensure that our responsibility to those we represent is faithfully carried out. As in the past years, I again solicit the benefit of your guidance and your continuing comments on my efforts during the remaining months of the Eighty-Third Congress. I hope that you will remember too that the distance from any point in Delaware to Washington is not extensive. Your personal visits to me and to the sessions of congress will help to strengthen your understanding, and mine, in the workings of our great democracy. A happy and prosperous new year to you all.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the first of his series of weekly statements for 1954 on current congressional affairs. Mr. Frear spoke from the Senate Office Building in Washington and will be heard again next week at this same time.

[End 06:29]