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

Thank you. Each year about this time, and especially in years when an important election is forthcoming, a significant increase occurs in political conversation.  The two major parties develop plans for rallies, dinner meetings, and other gatherings as a tribute to the great leaders of the past who have exercised such a dominant influence on our national life.  These activities provide the groundwork for important campaigns in the summer and fall.  In the case of the Republican Party, it is Abraham Lincoln who is revered as one of the most cherished inspirations of that political group.  Within the Democratic Party, it is Thomas Jefferson who is held in a similar place of honor.  The Lincoln Day meetings of the Republican Party, and the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners of the Democratic Party, are entirely in keeping with our political traditions.  They bespeak the essentially American principle of gathering together in fellowship and harmony for the sake of the party’s general welfare in spite of the fact that differences may exist among specific individuals within the framework of the respective organization itself.  And so, this week, many Republican leaders are leaving Washington to attend Lincoln Day dinners throughout the country, and in what might be termed a gentleman’s agreement, the Senate, while continuing to meet and debate the current business at hand, is not expected to schedule any major votes during this time when so many of its members are away.  A little later on, the Democratic members in the Senate will concentrate on their Jefferson-Jackson Day meetings, and a similar understanding with respect to Senate activities will be reached during their absence.  It is true, of course, that some citizens question the wisdom of holding political meetings when there is seemingly so much congressional work to be accomplished.  Actually, the Lincoln Day dinners, and the Jefferson-Jackson Day banquets, often provide valuable sounding boards for members of congress because it affords them an opportunity to hear and converse directly with members of their respective political parties and hear important views on major legislation.
To be sure, spokesmen of both parties use these occasions to emphasize in a lusty and vigorous manner the accomplishments of their own political party, and at the same time, make optimistic predictions for the future. Such sentiments form a regular pattern of political meetings today as they have for many, many years in the past. Without question, however, although each of the major political parties embraces one or more of our famous, earlier patriots as its symbol, it goes without saying that such personalities as Jefferson and Lincoln belong to history. The constant and unending endeavors which they put forth during their lifetime on behalf of our country mark them as men whose achievements transcend the bounds of political partisanship. As I mentioned a moment ago, sessions of the Senate are being held daily during this interim period, and the pending business remains Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, the Bricker Amendment. No final decision has been reached, and would be difficult to predict what will finally occur. We shall have to wait and see what developments take place during the next several days. Several substitute measures have been suggested to the original proposal, which, as you know, would amend the Constitution in order to give greater authority to congress, and in some instances, to the States in the approval of treaties and executive agreements. Now in other matters, our subcommittee is currently hearing testimony concerning the high price of coffee. As I mentioned last week, those of us on this investigating unit desire to explore all aspects of the situation in the hope of bringing a reduction in the cost of this beverage to the public. [05:03] Of course, if American housewives decline to pay the high prices which now exist and decide instead to increase the family consumption of milk by serving it an one of their meals instead of coffee, we may soon see an easing off of the excessive coffee prices. Most certainly, however, if the American people did make greater use of milk and other dairy products, it would help to alleviate the surplus of dairy foods for which our government is indirectly paying a great deal of money in the form of subsidies.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the sixth of his current series of weekly reports to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time.

[End 06:02]