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The Week in Congress, recorded on February 15th, 1954, and played on WDOV on February 17th, 1954.

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.

Thank you. In the broad sweep of world affairs I viewed this week, it becomes further apparent that the United States still has a long and perhaps difficult road to travel in its efforts to effectively diminish the political and military threat of communism to our way of life. For as we all know, communist forces are now pressing forward against the French-led troops in Indochina. This long conflict which many say may determine the fate of Southeast Asia has been difficult and costly to France. A settlement would be welcomed in that country, but an agreement to end the fighting without a clear-cut decision in favor of the free world might leave the communist element in a position to renew its assault at a time and under conditions favorable to itself. As the war in Indochina goes on, a sharp and perhaps significant debate is shaping up in congress and elsewhere over the position which the United States should adopt with respect to aiding the embattled French defenders. The discussion centers around the presence of some American technicians in Indochina who have been sent there to advise and assist the French in the use of equipment. Within congress, there are those who believe that the discussion to put any American soldiers in Indochina may give Russia an excuse to release the Chinese communist armies on the side of the red forces. But the implication of American servicemen there may go even deeper. It has pinpointed the whole perplexing question of how far and to what extent we will go to prevent Indochina from becoming another red prize. Korea is still fresh in our minds. Indeed, there is as yet no settlement of that problem. All we have is an armistice which could break down at a moment’s notice if the communist aggressors so decide. We halted aggression in Korea, but at a terrible cost. No American would want to see us similarly involved in Indochina. And yet, an increase in Communist strength and influence anywhere in the world poses a direct problem to the United States and all of the other free nations with whom it is associated in trying to preserve individual freedom, for communism is a
world problem and must be treated as such. We cannot separate or overlook the fact that the Soviets’ intentions at the current foreign minister’s meeting in Germany are tied in with its scheme for Asia and perhaps other areas as well. It is, of course, part of the communist doctrine to promote disunity and confusion. Witness the Russian position with respect to the people of Germany. And so again this year, we may see another prolonged congressional debate over American foreign policy and what it should be in the continuing struggle between East and West. There is no doubt of our position toward communism. We know its philosophy is incompatible with our democracy. It is in the methods of dealing with the reds and the extent to which we shall go that the difference of opinion rises so sharply. And let us not forget that Europe and Asia are by no means the only principle spawning grounds for communist propaganda. In Central America and in South America, tenacious communist groups are working intensely in a struggle to gain power and influence. In this situation, the United States must deal sternly and assuredly. We cannot afford a misstep in an area which is so perilously close to our own borders and which involves both our own security and that of our many really good friends in the southern hemisphere. [05:01] This week among a number of activities here in Washington and in Delaware is the annual congressional dinner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: an organization whose devotion and interest in the American way of life and whose efforts in the fight against communism comprise a record of enviable accomplishments for the edification of good citizens everywhere.

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.

[End 05:45]