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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. Today, Congress resumes an extremely full schedule of legislative activity following the return of its membership from a brief Easter recess. Of major interest here at the Senate are the executive meetings of the Finance Committee, which is now moving toward final consideration of the extremely important and far-reaching Trade Agreement Act. It is this bill which has prompted a major portion of our correspondence and personal discussion over the past week. You will recall that the house of representatives has already acted favorably upon this measure, and within the next few days, our Finance Committee will, in all probability, bring the trade bill to the Senate Chamber for consideration by the ninety-six members of that body. The tariff question has been historically one of controversy for the obvious reason that the flow of foreign-made goods into the United States can, under certain conditions, work severe hardship on our domestic manufacturers and the commodities which they produce. Basically, the objections of some American industries stem from the fact that many items are manufactured abroad by workers whose wage scales are much lower than the prevailing rates here at home. As a result, unless a sufficiently high duty is placed on these goods coming into the United States, their price to the consumer could be much less than that charge for a similar or identical item made by American workers. While all of us are anxious to purchase the necessities and luxuries of life, at a low cost, yet an overabundance of foreign commodities, unless controlled by proper tariff rates, could soon put many domestic manufacturers out of business. There are other ramifications to the tariff problem, but in substance, the competitive relationship between American and foreign-made products is the heart of the tariff question. By the same token, however, the economy of our friendly allies abroad is of major importance to this nation, for if an economic collapse were to occur among countries in Western Europe or Japan or South America, the Communist elements in those nations would be in a prime position to take
over those governments and thus deprive us of our friends abroad. So we strongly need, for both defense purposes and for the continued advancement of our own industrial activity, we must remember that although the United States imports huge quantities of goods from abroad, we also export a long list of commodities. Thus, foreign markets are also of much value to our economy. The difficult task of the Congress is to establish a level whereby the flow of imported and exported goods to and from the United States will produce a well-balanced and mutually satisfactory trade program that will benefit everyone. There is in existence a tariff commission here in Washington whose major function is to oversee the operation of our trade program and endeavor to protect American manufacturers from undue competitive hardship abroad. In addition to the Tariff Commission of the United States, various international organizations, both in existence now and proposed, have as their purported purpose the maintenance of a harmonious balance of world trade. But it is my strong hope that Congress will maintain an increasingly attentive attitude toward international trade and its effect upon the American economy. Congress should, in fact, serve as the watchdog of the tariff program and determine, to a considerable extent, the overall policies which guide its affairs. In all probability, the Senate will debate the proposed extension of the present trade agreements program very attentively and possibly at some length. In the course of this discussion, I hope that all phases of the tariff question will be thoroughly and accurately presented for the information of our American citizens. Before the Senate receives the Tariff Bill from the Finance Committee, it will consider the important Colorado River storage project, which is a proposed giant reclamation program. There has been extended argument as to the merits of this legislation and much objection has been raised by conservationists who fear that an important section of one of America’s great wilderness recreation areas will be seriously damaged. Those who favor the project believe it to be extremely necessary for the insurance of adequate power and water resources. From the point of view of Delawareans, our chief responsibility will be that of providing tax dollars to help pay for the project if it is approved. I know of no appreciable direct effect on our state itself, however, it might be notable that the amount of money needed for the Colorado River storage is vastly more than would be necessary to take care of some of the current Federal responsibility in our own rivers and harbors in the state. Finally, this week brings a return to Washington of former Presidents Truman and Hoover. Both of these distinguished Americans are appearing before the Foreign Relations Committee to discuss a proposed review of the United Nations’ charter. The members of Congress and all other government officials are, I am sure, happy to join in welcoming our two former chief executives to the nation’s capital and to listen with much interest to their recommendations for improving the functions of the United Nations.
Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular address to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs.