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Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. The Senate is moving into debate on what will probably be the most controversial item of legislation to come before this, the final session of the Eighty-Fourth Congress. I refer, of course, to the new Farm Bill, on which I commented briefly in an earlier statement several weeks ago. Already, opinion is shaping up, either for or against the legislation which was presented to the Senate by the Committee on Agriculture a few days ago. It is, I believe, too early to speculate on what the decision of the Senate will be with respect to the most controversial feature of the bill, namely, the so-called rigid versus flexible parity system of farm price support. In addition, the question of establishing a soil bank, whereby farmers would be compensated for removing acreage from cultivation is another section of the Farm Bill that will undoubtedly provoke extensive discussion by members of the Senate. A relationship exists between the Soil Bank Program and whatever type of parity system that may be in effect during the months ahead. In my own mind, there is a strong question as to the feasibility of establishing both a Soil Bank Program and a return to the system of rigid price support. It is safe to assume that there will be numerous amendments proposed to the farm legislation in the course of its debate. As a result, significant changes may be reflected in the structure of the bill when it is finally acted upon. Many of our farm people in Delaware will have a direct interest in the outcome of this legislation because it contains many other features besides the price support provisions. However, the effect of the bill will be felt in the long run on the average consumer as well as on those who produce our farm products. This result is traceable to the fact that subsidies paid by the government to the farmers, or to anyone else, must be provided for out of Federal funds, which in turn come from the American people in the form of both direct and indirect taxes. Clearly then, prices received by the farmers for their farm products has dropped sharply, and it is natural that the government should undertake every possible effort to assist those individuals who are in most need of help. For certainly we must
remember that during World War II, the government encouraged tremendous production of food and other goods by farmers and ranchers to meet the needs of our armed services and our allies abroad. By virtue of our greatly extended acreage, we have produced mountains of farm surpluses, and it is this excess which is particularly responsible for our present unstable farm situation. Taking together, then, the questions of price support, either rigid or flexible, the Soil Bank Program, farm surpluses, and farm prices constitute all the necessary attributes for a first-class Senate debate, which will surely be a most spirited one, and at times, perhaps acrimonious, especially during this, a Presidential election year. Delawareans would do well to follow the progress of the farm bill, for no matter what finally happens, we shall hear many echoes of this issue during the course of the actual political campaign next summer and fall. I am glad to note that a number of people from our state have already begun expressing their comments on the Farm Bill, and I look forward to the receipt of many additional opinions in the days immediately ahead.

[05:10] 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. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 05:33]