Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library, http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi
This Week In Congress Radio Address: Pending Legislation: The Agriculture Act of 1956, 1956 March 14
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 16th, 1956.

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. Washington, during the past week, was again the scene of extended and controversial discussions over two widely divergent but important problems. On the one hand was the pending Agricultural Act of 1956 which carried the Senate through stormy sessions both day and night. The other principal item of attention was the deepening crisis in the general area of the Middle East. Domestically, the Farm Bill created the most widespread interest. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that farming is such a basic part of the nation’s economy, and especially because prices of farm commodities are generally lower than in the past. Congress, therefore, in writing a new farm bill is attempting to bring some sort of rapid relief to distressed farm areas while at the same time laying a suitable groundwork for a more stabilized farm program in the future. As you well know, differences of opinion over the methods of accomplishing these objectives have resulted in a series of very close Senate votes on various amendments to the Farm Bill. Before the legislation finally becomes law, the Senate and House must agree on existing differences between the legislation as passed by the two bodies of Congress and then be approved by the President. Several score amendments were offered to the Senate Farm Bill with the result that the legislation has been somewhat confusing, even to those of us who have been working with it for so many days. As I have mentioned in recent statements, two of the principle questions involved are those of the parity system for payment of subsidies and the handling of our gigantic farm surpluses. By majority vote, the Senate has indicated that it favors the less-rigid system of price supports on most basic crops than was approved by the House of Representatives. Various efforts are being made to deal with the surplus issue through both the medium of the pending bill and independent actions. We shall have to wait some little time before measuring the results of these endeavors. Meanwhile, overseas, the whole series of events that has occupied the nation’s front pages appears to become more serious with each passing day. The Arab-Israel crisis, the
agonizing French dispute in Algeria, and the deeply distressing situation on the island of Cyprus are causing diplomatic leaders, and many other individuals, to search and plan intensively for some reasonable solution. The United States has, and must, continue to express its concern in these matters, both in the interest of protecting world peace and because of our fundamental association with the nations involved. Great Britain and Greece, for example, which are both closely allied with Western policy, are sharply divided over the Cyprus question. This government should expend every possible effort to encourage an early end to the disruptive events over there so that the English and Greek people may return to their traditional policy of friendship with each other. Finally, this past week brought a visit to Washington by the Prime Minister of Ireland, and members of Congress were most happy to hear the interesting address which the Irish leader, Mr. Costello, brought to the people of the United States. We wish him a most pleasant stay here in the United States.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. [04:58] 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 05:20]