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This Week In Congress Radio Address: President's Requests for Force in Middle East,
1957 January 7
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

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. It is symbolic of the tense and uncertain era in which we live that the international situation would once more loom forth as the dominant issue in the new congress. Hardly had the membership of the Senate and the House of Representatives reached Washington for the opening ceremonies that word came of the President’s definite intention to seek stand-by authority from the Eighty-Fifth Congress for the use of armed force, if necessary to halt Communist aggression in the Middle East. The recent turmoil in that seething area is fresh in our minds. We know that the possibility of further conflict exists. The American people are aware, too, that so-called minor wars can be precipitated into larger ones or can be indefinitely prolonged with a consequent high loss in human lives. By the same token, we are a people of maturity and clearly recognize the compelling responsibility to prevent further Communist penetration either in the Middle East or any other area of the world. The President’s proposal, therefore, is of direct and far-reaching concern to the Congress and especially to the millions of American servicemen who, in the final analysis, would probably bear the brunt of whatever military efforts we may now or in the future be forced to undertake. It is my strong conviction that there be full and complete public discussion on proposals for giving the President stand-by authority to utilize American troops in the sensitive Middle East area. I believe whole-heartedly that the people should be given all possible information related to the circumstances as they now exist on this matter so that they, through their congressional representatives, can formulate intelligent judgments and conclusions. Added to the question of using American troops are the prospects of increased expenditures for military requirements with their resultant effect on the domestic economy. It is unfortunately true that the Middle East area has long been rampant with political intrigue. The recent Suez crisis has merely focused worldwide attention once more on events there, and in addition, it has more forcefully demonstrated the vulnerability of the Suez Canal insofar as its future use is concerned. But we all recognize that the Middle East area harbors tremendous quantities of oil which are absolutely necessary to Western Europe and highly desired by the United States to
supplement our own resources. The Western world requires availability of these petroleum deposits just as does the Soviet Union. Political stability in the Middle East is our fundamental goal. We hope to obtain it through peaceful persuasion and negotiation. In the days immediately ahead, the attention of Congress and the American people should be devoted to a close and careful study of all factors which bear upon this situation. The news and the views and opinions of Delawareans will, as in the past, be of particular value to me in helping me to reach a decision in this matter.

Mr. Kelly: 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 04:23]