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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, (unintelligible) Bob. One of the most important problems to which the Congress will give attention this year is that of education. First and foremost, perhaps, is the concern over how to increase and improve science education throughout the nation. It is natural that all sorts of suggestions to remedy these present deficiencies would be forthcoming. Advocates of vastly increased Federal spending for educational purposes are already making their views known in Washington. This pressure will undoubtedly increase in the days ahead. What is needed, therefore, is strong and sensible leadership within the Congress and among educational leaders to discourage any hasty decision to appropriate large amounts of Federal funds in the belief that it will automatically cure the educational problem. The general subject of education is so broad and complex that it cannot be treated in such a short presentation as this statement. However, as the Congress moves towards early consideration of the problem, it seems to me that one or two observations may be worthy of note. One of these is that despite the importance of scientific training, we must not overlook the necessity for ensuring a purely well-rounded curriculum, especially at the high school level. This means that we cannot afford to slight basic, non-scientific studies, which are a real key to an overall education. The profession of teaching, especially in fields of science, is one that might well be encouraged through such means as increased compensation and other reasonable inducements. We are fortunate in this country to have a large number of splendid colleges which are privately endowed. Some of these institutions, and perhaps many of them, are in a far from adequate financial condition. This is an area in which educational assistance from the Federal government might be forthcoming, providing it does not fall for Federal encroachment or political influence on the use of such aid. As a related part of this subject, I have introduced into Congress within the past few days a bill to allow an additional tax exemption for taxpayers having a dependent at an educational institution above the secondary level. In meeting our educational requirements in the so-called age of space, let us not overlook the contributions of industry, which in the past year has
contributed something in the neighborhood of one hundred million dollars to endowed institutions. Perhaps such contributions would be increased if better tax exemption conditions for educational donations were established. Recently, a series of editorials on the general subject of education were printed by the (unintelligible 03:47) Times of Louisiana. In one of these articles, the editorial writers called attention to the clamor being heard in some circles that the United States must imitate the Russian system of teaching science to catch up on so-called Communist superiority in space weapons. I agree with the newspaper that such talk is nonsense, just as are the cries that the United States is now a weakling or a second-class power compared to the Soviet Union. Surely, the United States does not have to ape Russia in anything. We must meet our own needs as they relate to Communist threats, but that does not mean imitate. Let us not forget that Russia took over a large number of German scientists, and additionally, Russian espionage activities were successful in learning some of our atomic secrets, as we all know. It would be helpful if all of us would give a great deal of thought to our educational needs, keeping in mind that there is no lack of desire among the majority of our American youth to learn. [05:02] What is needed is to give them encouragement, plus sensible and logical facility to transform their educational wishes into practical reality.

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 05:38]