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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.

Thank you, Bob. With Congress in temporary recess, it might be well at this time to look briefly at some of the major legislative problems which the members of the Senate and House have been considering during the first three months of 1958. The work of the Congress has been characterized chiefly by its attention and its concern over the nation's economic recession. For that reason, the most important legislative decision made thus far have been months to stimulate the domestic economy through such media as our construction industries and rivers and harbors project. In addition, several legislative decisions have already been made, and others are pending on measures to increase the flow of money into the hands of consumers. Some of these measures have not yet been passed by both the House and Senate while others are awaiting review by joint Senate-House Conference Committees to work out minor differences in the legislation as it passed the respective chambers. Among these measures are ones to increase certain postal rates and to raise the compensation of the nation’s post office employees and the government’s civil service personnel. These bills have passed both the Senate and House and are now in conference. Another pay bill to raise the compensation of our men and women in uniform is also before Congress and has already passed the House of Representatives. All of these bills can probably expect affirmative congressional attention and presidential approval. The results could increase the flow of money, especially in those areas where substantial government employment exists or where there are large military establishments. Of course, pay increases for any segment of the government automatically increases the operating costs of the Federal agencies and in turn this means that the taxpayers’ bill stands to become higher. However, a good portion of the funds which go for the pay increase to both military and civilian will be returned in Federal taxes, and in the case of the post office employees, the increase in postal rates should help to offset the added compensation which the postal employees will receive. Other congressional activities during the first three months of 1958 concerned themselves chiefly with the developments in foreign affairs. Debate and discussion on the wisdom of a summit conference, and
more recently, the issue of halting nuclear tests were the most important. It is no secret that serious concern exists among members of the Senate and House over the wisdom of again meeting with the Russian leaders after the failure of the Reds to recognize and abide by any other proposals advance during the ill-fated Geneva Conference of 1955. However, with pressures mounting for another East-West summit talk, members of the Congress will have an opportunity during this recess period to find out at first-hand what their constituents at home think about the idea of our Chief Executive again sitting down with Russia’s Communist leader, who has also now become its Premier. Russia’s efforts to secure favorable propaganda throughout the world by offering to abandon nuclear tests should not fool anyone with any knowledge of history. Obviously, the Russians are deeply concerned over what our next series of nuclear tests will produce in the way of information and scientific advances. They also apparently believe that the world will overlook the fact that the Reds themselves have just completed their own series of tests. This country has offered a reasonable plan for disarmament, but the Soviet leaders have so far declined to accept it. Accordingly, it is not likely that Congress or most of the American people will be greatly impressed with the newest Russian soundings unless more tangible evidence is presented.

[05:08]

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 05:32]