This Week In Congress Radio Address: U.S. Foreign Policy and International Relations,
1958 May 19
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 19th 1958.

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 and the nation have just experienced one of the most turbulent weeks since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea. The series of incidents in France, the Middle East, and in South America have been of such a nature as to suggest a searching examination by the United States of its position and relationship in matters of foreign policy. Already, at least one congressional subcommittee is looking into the background of the Vice President’s intended goodwill tour of South America to determine, if possible, not only the reasons for the shameful outbursts against him and his wife, but to ascertain also the reasons why the government encouraged the trip under what turned out to be very dangerous conditions. In this connection, I cannot help but recall my own impressions made during a visit in this area several years ago. At that time, it was evident that Communist elements were working diligently to gain political strength in a number of Central and South American countries. Without question, their efforts are continuing, and such incidents as the riots against the Vice President, while probably involving other individuals besides Communists, help to create an atmosphere of confusion and uncertainty in which the Red elements operate at their best. The proximity of Latin America to our own shores through such vital arteries as the Panama Canal make it not only necessary but imperative that this government leave nothing undone to ensure our good neighbors to the south of the necessity for mutual respect and understanding between our respective people. Changing economic conditions, including the gradual development of a middle class population, may be helpful. In the past, there have been no real middle class in Latin America. Now, we all know it is this group that is the real backbone of any nation. But with expanded economic progress now evident in a number of South American states, there is real opportunity for the kind of social, cultural, and industrial climate which will make South Americans more compatible with the people of our own country. Despite the urgencies of the moment in France and in the Middle East, we cannot, under any circumstances, fail to heed the events of the past few days south of the border. Meanwhile, of
course, the consequences of a divided people in the republic of France causes concern and even alarm. France is an old and historic ally. Its internal troubles have been many and rather dismal during recent years, but it is a nation which, like ours, loves freedom. I am sure, therefore, all Americans are united in the hope that political stability will promptly return to the French government and that in addition, relations with Algeria will be brought to a mutually acceptable conclusion. For again, as in South America, the West can gain nothing from upheaval among our allies. Only the Kremlin stands to reap any benefits, and they will quickly try to do so by any and all available means. Finally, during this week, we witnessed another violent outburst in the Middle East. Here again, the influence of the Soviet Union is evident. But also evident is the expressed interest of the United States. And though the outcome of events in Lebanon is still uncertain, it is to be expected that the United States will take a most determined stand to prevent that little country from falling into a state of anarchy or under Red domination. In spite of this major preoccupation with foreign affairs, Congress did not overlook its domestic responsibilities. Of major interest, perhaps, was the opening of hearings before the Banking and Currency Committee on major housing legislation and the continued activity of the Finance Committee in considering the so-called Unemployment Compensation Bill, which has already passed the House.

[05:17]

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 05:37]