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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, Mr. Kelly. Undoubtedly, the most exciting legislation recently before the Senate was the historic vote on Alaskan statehood. When the roll call was finally completed and announced to the Senate, spectators and members alike demonstrated interest and enthusiasm which occurs only on those rare occasions when a matter of such momentous importance has been brought to a decision. As the spectator’s applause echoed through the Senate chamber, similar demonstrations were beginning almost simultaneously all across the vast territory. It was as if the whole nation sensed the fact that history was in the making, as indeed it was. For the lusty cheers of Alaskans in the great north country were spelling out the realization that America’s statehood frontiers were being extended, and that new and fresh opportunities for growth and development of our nation were now impending. It was, for me, a personal pleasure and a source of much satisfaction to have participated in the final decision which will shortly bring another star to Old Glory. I know that some of our citizens in Delaware were deeply concerned over this question of statehood for Alaska. Quite a number, in fact, felt that the action taken was premature. I want them to know that their position on this matter was well-taken. On the other hand, our great country cannot be inflexible to change. Vision, imagination, and progress have been the symbols of our existence since the founding years of this Republic. It thus would be inconsistent with past practices if we did not move forward toward new frontiers. This is as true with the issue of Alaska’s statehood as it is with the vast, new science of outer space. I hope that in the near future, many people in Delaware will take the opportunity to visit the forty-ninth state. Personally, I want to do so myself in order to see and learn at first-hand what the problems and the interests are of this huge and largely untapped reservoir which has so much to offer for the welfare of all of us. It is fitting, I think, that approval of Alaskan statehood should have come so close to the observance of Independence Day: a time when Americans joyfully celebrate and rededicate themselves to the heritage of freedom and liberty which came to us more than a century and a half ago. Perhaps the feelings of all of us can best be summed up in the final words
of an editorial which was printed in the Fairbanks, Alaska newspaper within a short time after the decisive vote was taken. These newspapers were rushed to Washington for the members of Congress to read within about twenty-four hours after the Senate had completed its action. The editorial in part reads as follows:

“Our government of the United States of America has demonstrated faith in Alaska, our great land. As we embark on challenging tasks which lie ahead, guiding the destiny of the child born today which we are confident will grow into a healthy, vigorous, and worthy addition to the family of states. Let us pause for a moment and ask: May God grant us wisdom to demonstrate to the world that the trust placed with us is well-founded.”

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 05:10]