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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. Two of the most significant documents which will come before Congress at this session arrived at Capitol Hill this week from the White House. One was the President’s budget for the next fiscal year; the other, the report on the economic status of the nation. Each of these lengthy and somewhat complex proposals, produced almost immediately actioned among the Senate and House and throughout the country as a whole. In particular, the new budget prompted congressional reaction, ranging from the moderate to the extreme. As recommended by Mr. Eisenhower, the budget is a balanced one, calling for expenditures of about seventy-seven billion dollars for the next fiscal year by the Federal government. These funds will come from various taxes, such as personal income, excise, and corporate levies, plus other sources of revenue. Some members of Congress believe the budget is inadequate and insufficient to meet our needs. On the other hand, a few members think the budget can be cut below the figures submitted by the Chief Executive. Actually, at this particular time, any estimate that the budget is too large or too small is a matter of speculation. The various committees of the Congress have yet to hear the requests and the explanations by the various Federal agencies for the sums of money needed to operate their individual department. As you know, Congress appropriates money bills separately and often reduces or raises individual requests after hearing the testimony of witnesses. In the case of a new budget, if a serious military emergency should occur, budget estimates for national defense would undoubtedly have to be raised considerably. Similarly, if the country were to experience another economic slump, such as the one that occurred during the past year, added government expenditures might be necessary to stimulate employment and general economic activity. There are additional considerations, which are also likely to affect the final budget figure. The economic report of the President is naturally optimistic, and certainly all of us hope that its forecast will be true. Of course, the dynamic nature of the American free enterprise system should make it possible for the country to continue the growth and expansion of its economic climate, provided the government
does not unduly interfere. I hope, therefore, that in the weeks ahead, Congress will consider its budgetary requests prudently, but not miserly. Our aim as legislators should be fiscal solvency, the avoidance of red ink spending, in other words, a budget whose expenditures are matched by its receipts. Failure to get and keep the government’s monetary affairs in order can have drastic consequences through rising costs of living, inflation, and loss of public confidence in the ability of our public officials to carry out the responsibilities for which they have been chosen. And now, may I bring you a final, brief comment on a most important matter of public concern. Thanks to the generous support of the people of Delaware over the past twenty years through the March of Dimes, we are winning the victory over infantile paralysis. Your contributions brought about the development of the Salk vaccine and gave help to three hundred, fifty thousand polio victims through improved treatment and rehabilitation. Now, the National Foundation, formerly known as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, will definitely continue its important work in the polio field. [05:03] But at the same time, it is undertaking a vast, new program to fight arthritis, birth defects, and virus diseases. Through a greatly expanded research program, the National Foundation will seek the cause and prevention of these major public health problems. At the same time, it will give direct medical assistance to youthful victims of arthritis and birth defects. We, you and I, can help to launch this new health program successfully by supporting the March of Dimes this month. Will you help? 

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 06:10]