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Congressional attention in Washington this past week again turned largely to the old and familiar subject of United States preparedness for defense emergencies. Against the background of developing advancements by both the Soviet Union and the United States in the field of missiles and rockets, the Senate preparedness Investigating Subcommittee examined the question of where our nation stands in relation to Russia. Appearing before the subcommittee as it opened its inquiry was the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other high-ranking civilian and military officials of our armed forces. The day-by-day testimony being presented before will, except for classified material, be widely disseminated. Important as the individual views of the witnesses are, of even greater significance will be the conclusions drawn by the committee after it has received the collective views of all concerned. On the basis of the information furnished to the subcommittee, Congress should be in a better position to evaluate our relative position with respect to the Soviet Union and to maintain or accelerate the pace of our preparedness. There are those who may find fault with such hearings as these on the basis that they tend to bring into the open many matters of national defense that need not be made public. But it can be pointed out that under our system of government, the members of Congress, as the agents of the public, have the right and duty to examine and to correct, if necessary, any activities of the Federal government, be it defense or other matters of national welfare. In addition to the preparedness subcommittee hearings, my own committee on banking and currency is moving swiftly to complete action on a housing bill which will come before the Senate this week. Our committee has reviewed the public testimony presented during the past few days. On the basis of this testimony, a bill will be reported very shortly and may be acted upon before this week is over. A rather substantial number of inquiries from builders, homeowners, prospective homebuyers, bankers, and others have been addressed to my office, offering suggestions and recommendations for legislation in the housing field. While the type of
bill being reported by the committee will not cover all the items mentioned by these individual correspondents, we hope that the final legislation will be of broad, general benefit, both to the housing industry and to the public. Other legislative matters of major importance receiving committee attention in the Senate and House during the past few days were a bill to extend the Selective Service Law, a bill to admit Hawai‘i as the fiftieth state of the Union, and the President’s message on proposed farm legislation.

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.