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The Week in Congress, recorded on March 23rd, 1959.

From Washington, DC, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Thank you, Mr. Kelly. A semi-climax to recent Western discussions over clarification of current policy in Berlin was reached over the weekend here in the Washington area when the President and the Prime Minister of Great Britain completed their measured discussions on this vital issue. For the British Prime Minister, the Washington visit followed earlier trips to Moscow, Paris, and Bonn, Germany, where the Berlin question was discussed with the respective leaders of those governments. While there are many factors involved and many questions still unsettled, it does appear that the determination of the United States to stand firm in Berlin may have convinced the Soviet leaders of the desirability of negotiating for a peaceful settlement of this crisis while there is still time. Thus, it is likely that a Foreign Ministers Conference this spring, followed by a summit conference, will occur. Of course, there is no guarantee that this time table of events will take place as presently indicated. Before the Foreign Ministers Meeting, a great deal of preliminary conversations and negotiations at the diplomatic level are in order. Then, during the course of the Ministers Meeting, there must be successfully developed an appropriate agenda on which the heads of the government can base their summit conversations. In arriving at the present period in the Berlin crisis, this country has demonstrated a very desirable characteristic: a strong and so far unshaken degree of bipartisanship between both major political parties and between the Congress as a group and the President. Quite obviously, this expression of virtually unanimous confidence in our policy of firmness has caused the Russian leaders to modify the dangerous course on which their policy had been operated in recent weeks. I believe that there now exists further opportunities whereby the whole German issue can be intelligently discussed and perhaps settled. If so, it will remove one of the great dangers to peace in Europe. Toward this goal, all of us hope that much progress will be made in the days ahead. In closing this particular statement, may I point out that Congress, as is customary, will be adjourning late in the week out of respect for the observance of Good Friday. Soon, the whole Christian world will celebrate Easter Sunday. We, especially those of us who live in the free world, can be thankful that
there is no impediment to our freedom of worship, especially on this great Sunday of the Christian year. May I take this occasion to wish everyone a joyful Easter.

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 04:42]