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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Public Outcry to Lower Federal Expenditures,
1957 March 11

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 11th, 1957.

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. During the earlier part of the year, soon after the President submitted his proposed budget, I expressed the view that the amount of money requested by the Chief Executive for the next fiscal twelve months could and should be reduced, and I offered the opinion that other members of Congress would soon be of a similar conviction. In the few weeks that have elapsed, it has become overwhelmingly evident that a great many people in Delaware, and for that matter, throughout the United States, are also of the same mind, for not a day goes by that we do not receive a substantial number of letters demanding that Congress act to lower Federal expenditures. Personally, I am greatly pleased at this strong expression of interest by the citizens of Delaware in the financial operations of our government. There now seems to be no doubt but that people are becoming acutely aware of the cost of government and of the impact this cost creates on their pocketbooks in the way of taxation. Surely if the people continue to insist that the Congress lessen Federal spending, the people's desires will be fulfilled. As a result of the public attitude toward the new budget, many members of Congress have urged that the President himself take the lead in recommending budgetary cuts on his own. We hope he will do this in conjunction with the heads of various Federal departments. Otherwise, Congress will undoubtedly act on its own. In fact, the House of Representatives, which considers money bills first, has already approved several budget slashes in significant amounts. I now understand that the director of the budget foresees the possibility of tax relief next year. This is a hopeful sign on the part of the executive branch, and one that has been shared very strongly by Congress. In fact, some members are of the view that a tax cut is possible this year, although at the moment, I believe that such an objective is highly uncertain despite the worthiness of the proposal. The most important development, however, in all of the recent discussions about government spending is the one that I mentioned at the beginning of this statement, namely, that a genuine concern and awareness has now manifested itself by the general public over the enormity of government expenditures for

both domestic and foreign purposes. I am confident that as a result, Congress will take strong and definite action to implement the wishes of its constituents at home. Of course, vigorous objectives will be forthcoming from government agencies which may have their appropriations cut. Customarily, when money bills were brought forward, Congress receives a volume of information justifying the existence of this or that particular Federal activity whose functions are under review for appropriation purposes. As I have pointed out many times, it will be a very pleasant thing if Congress could give its approval to every proposal offered to improve our domestic and foreign policies. However, not only are some of these recommendations quite doubtful as to efficiency and overall constructive effects, but in addition, we must realize that the Federal Treasury is not inexhaustible and that all of the money that goes into it must be produced by the people before expenditures can be made. The soundness of the Federal government's financial status is imperative if in the long run our system of government is to survive. Just as we individuals cannot indefinitely overspend or waste our resources, neither can the government, which in reality utilizes not its own finances, but those of the people for whom it is acting as a public servant.

[04:58]

Mr. Kelly:

From Washington, DC, 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 05:16]