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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Press Sensationalism involving Governmental Affairs,
1956 January 25

Speaker: J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on January 20th, 1956, and played on WDOV on January 25th, 1956.

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. Congressional activity, stimulated by the impending events of this presidential election year, struck a most intensive pace within the past week with indications that the tempo will be increasingly rapid with each passing day. In both foreign and domestic affairs, developments occurred of significant public interest. Perhaps the most widespread attention insofar as foreign policy is concerned has been the reaction within the Congress to the *Life* magazine article attributed to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. These disclosures have become clearly controversial and seem to foreshadow an intensive foreign policy debate in the Senate. Although suggestions were heard some weeks ago, that foreign policy should be omitted from the forthcoming campaign, it seems quite obvious that this issue will have a major role between now and next November. In light of the probable Senate debate on foreign affairs, I should like to emphasize that, if conducted properly, and on a level befitting the position of the United States in world affairs, such a debate, both within the ranks of Congress and among many other individuals and groups who are also interested, should produce affirmative and helpful results. For one thing, public discussion can certainly encourage a broader understanding of the complexities of foreign, of our foreign relations and may also aid in formulating desirable public opinion on the subject. The second incident, which has precipitated further attention to international affairs, is likewise a magazine article in another national publication, the *Saturday Evening Post*. The author in this instance is General Matthew Ridgway, who has taken sharp issue with the Department of Defense over military manpower policy and certain other recommendations in connection with national defense. It is difficult, of course, to discuss either of these rather sensational articles without assuming a partisan position. And yet, it seems to me, more logical to await the outcome of Senate hearings and debates on both questions before reaching a conclusion. Suffice it to say, however, there will

certainly be a tremendous amount of public and penned comment from which it is sincerely hoped that benefit will accrue to the nation. On the domestic scene, the Senate moves to its first full week of debate on the natural gas bill, and it appears discussion will be carried on for another week or longer. As this was taking place, the Senate Finance Committee held an intensive week of hearings on pending legislation to amend and extend the Sugar Act of 1948. This issue has many points of interest since it concerns not only those of us who use sugar in one form or another, but also those states which produce sugar domestically, and our Latin American neighbors, such as Cuba and Mexico, who export this produce to the United States. Involved in the matter are such things as quota and of course the ever-present question of federal subsidies. The Finance Committee, having met in executive sessions, expects to report the bill to the senate floor shortly. I had hoped, at this point, to discuss some of the legislative activities in the Senate Banking Committee which occurred during the past few days. But in the interest of time, I see that we shall have to defer that subject until a later time.

[05:00]

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 05:25]