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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Republicans Honor Abraham Lincoln, 1956 February 9
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on February 9th, 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. Congress has now been in session approximately six weeks, and in keeping with the custom of long-standing, there will now be a lull of several days in the consideration of major legislation before the two bodies. Various committee hearings will continue so that pending matters can be prepared for subsequent attention. The chief reason why the members of the Senate and House have laid aside controversial matters for a few days is to allow Republican members of the Congress to participate in Lincoln Day observances. These occasions are, of course, of a political as well as a patriotic concern to the present minority party, and this being an election year, we may expect a larger than usual volume of oratory. In the spirit of cooperation, the majority leadership of the Senate and the House, which is of course Democratic, will not schedule major legislation for debate because of the fact our colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle will be engaged elsewhere. Later on in the year when the Democratic party begins holding its Jefferson Jackson Day dinners, a similar spirit of reciprocity will be extended by the Republican leadership. Actually, these various celebrations technically held both in honor of Lincoln and Jefferson and Jackson have become important sounding boards through which leaders of both parties seek to determine the public's point of view on issues of significant concern. The brief respite from major legislative duties, which Congress is now taking, comes at the conclusion of another week of strenuous and highly controversial decisions. For within the last few days, the Senate has completed action on the natural gas bill, which it approved by a vote of fifty-three to thirty-eight, and sent to the White House. It has also passed legislation to amend and extend the Sugar Act of 1948 for six years. This matter is of primary interest, not only to our many states in this country, but to Mexico, Cuba, and other nations of the Western Hemisphere. Meanwhile, the Senate received from the President a message which recommends legislative changes in our immigration and naturalization laws. Necessarily, these proposals will first be reviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. And speaking of committee business, hearings on legislation to amend the Social Security Act continued during the past

week in the Senate Finance Committee. Meanwhile, in another room on Capitol Hill, the Internal Security Subcommittee has begun hearings concerning the scope of Soviet activities in the United States, thus pointing up again the necessity for vigilance by the Congress in matters relating to this phase of our internal security. Although the nature of most legislative considerations of the past week were on the heavier side, one cannot overlook events in the lighter vein which begin to occur in the late winter and early spring. I refer, of course, to the annual trips of our Delaware school pupils to the national capital to which we look forward with much anticipation and pleasure. Soon, these young people and their teachers will be coming here from all parts of Delaware in considerable numbers. And as with those whom we have already seen this year, we extend a most cordial welcome to the additional classes who are expected to see their government at work in the national capital. Finally, and in the highest tradition of this great nation, let us recall with deepest respect and admiration another anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. [05:02] While our seventeenth President is frequently associated with the political party of which he was such a distinguished leader and member, it is, of course, recognized by all Americans that Lincoln's statue as a statesman and great American far transcends the confines of any partisan association.

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 05:52]