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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Appropriation Legislation to be Considered Before
Congress, 1959 April 3

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 3rd, 1959.

Mr. Kelly: 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.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. As Congress resumes its legislative duties after a brief Easter recess, it is perhaps expedient to note the fact that a number of major appropriations bills are not in the process of being readied for consideration in the Senate and House in what will be a series of major votes. In fact, several of these money bills have already been acted upon in the lower chamber and are pending before the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. Although there are various methods by which Congress can make Federal monies available, the most direct means is a passage of a bill specifically granting the allotment of funds from the Treasury to meet a Federal monetary responsibility. When the total amount of funds in the various appropriation measures is added up toward the end of the fiscal year, we have a fairly good estimate of what the cost of government is to the American taxpayer during a given twelve-month period. This sum is not always, indeed, not usually, the same amount that the President has recommended in his budget message at the beginning of each calendar year. Sometimes, total appropriations are larger; at times, they are less. Emergencies of one type or another can and usually do radically alter Federal obligations substantially. For instance, when the United States intervened in Lebanon some months ago, the cost of our military establishment for planning and staging this gigantic operation ran into millions and millions of dollars. The point worth noting in any discussion of Federal appropriations and the Federal spending programs on which they are based is whether or not we are exceeding the limitations of fiscal solvency. Actually, the government's financial condition is often in a rather precarious state. At times, we plunge deeply into the red in spite of borrowing and high taxes. Consequently, intricate bookkeeping maneuvers are sometimes required to keep this colossal government of ours on an even financial keel. To the average householder who must keep a sensible balance between income and outlay of funds, the manner in which Federal finances are managed must surely cause concern. I might mention that this situation creates a similar reaction among many members of Congress. As a result, continued efforts are being made to

improve the efficiency of Federal monetary practices through better management, and where possible, a reduction in actual spending. The principal difficulty here lies in the fact that there are scores of projects and programs involving Federal obligations which are carried out in the various states. The senators and congressmen from those areas naturally defend and fight for approval of funds to maintain these special Federal activities. As a result, Congress must be its own judge at times in deciding whether to increase Federal appropriations at the risk of spreading inflation in order to accommodate the needs of a particular state; or pare down overall Federal outlays in the hope that it will eventually permit a reduction in taxes and a general improvement in the fiscal condition of Uncle Sam.

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 04:46]