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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Congressional Appropriations for Coming Fiscal Year,  
1955 March 31

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

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1955.

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. At about this time each year, Congress begins to turn its attention to the question of Federal appropriations for the next fiscal year. Appropriation time in Washington is always an interesting occasion, and one which causes members of the House and Senate a great deal of thought and anxiety. For in passing on these money bills, Congress determines of the hard-earned dollars, which you have paid in Federal taxes, will be spent during the next twelve months. The vastness of the federal government and its enormously complex and far-reaching operations require millions upon millions of dollars to effectively function. As Congress undertakes to portion out the sums of money available to maintain the branches of government, a tremendous number of suggestions, opinions, and persuasive tactics are brought before our membership by individuals who are concerned directly or indirectly with government funds. Congress is faced, basically, with two problems in the consideration of appropriation bills. The first is to approve spending of money in amounts that will produce the most effective and affirmative results and promote the nation's welfare. The second problem is that of demonstrating to the American taxpayer the clear conviction that in the utilization of Federal funds, his interest as an individual is being rightfully protected. I regularly receive each year letters from Delawareans which vigorously encourage sharp reductions in practically all appropriation bills. These letters correctly point out that as long as the Federal budget remains unbalanced, we must keep reducing government spending to avoid going further into the red. Now certainly, I have never quarreled with this type of thinking, for I believe, as do most Americans, that the government should be operated on a practical, business-like basis. Over the past six years, I have encouraged less government spending by voting for reductions in requested appropriations which I believe could be safely made. By the same token, however, there have been times when I felt that the public interest would be better served by voting to increase certain appropriations. This has occurred mainly in matters of national defense.

Although many deserving arguments can be made for sharply reducing federal appropriations, persuasive reasons can also be offered to support the maintenance of government spending at its present or even increased levels. Proponents of this view take the position that federal spending stimulates the general economy and helps to encourage both production and consumption of goods and services. Certainly this is true to a considerable extent, for without the big government payrolls and the tremendous volume of purchasing which is necessary to sustain the federal departments and their activities, many enterprises would lose business. And so, as Congress prepares for consideration of principal appropriation bills, we shall again be confronted with the dual responsibility of justifying these expenditures to the individual taxpayer and to the nation as a whole. If members from Congress from time to time requests special appropriations which might increase the overall amount of money in a particular bill, it is probably because they desire such funds for a project in their own state or district. For instance, there are items of need in Delaware for which I believe the Federal government should assume financial responsibility. The particular point I want to emphasize at this time is to assure you of my continuing desire to support or reject requests for appropriations in accordance with the best interests of our own state and the nation. To this end, I will continue to gladly receive views of all interested citizens who wish to express themselves on this vital phase of congressional responsibility.

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 05:32]**