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This Week In Congress Radio Address: \$3 1/2 billion Towards Foreign Aid Approved,
1955 June 8

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

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on June 3rd, 1955, and played on WDOV on June 8th, 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. Late last week, the Senate, after an extended debate, approved a bill which authorizes approximately three and one-half billion dollars for additional foreign aid. Known as the Mutual Security Act of 1955, the legislation is designed to further assist the friendly nations abroad. Basically, the philosophy of continued American aid to non-communistic countries in other parts of the world is sound, and I have supported this proposal quite consistently during the past six and one-half years. It has been my conviction that by fostering the program of economic and military help, this nation could more definitely implement the policy of collective security to which we have committed ourselves. Beginning with the Marshall Plan and continuing up to the present time, Congress has appropriated billions of dollars to Western Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Most of these funds were earmarked initially for Europe in order to lift the Western democracies from the chaos of five years of conflict. That the Marshall Plan was eminently successful, there is no doubt, and as the economic outlook among the Western democracies improves, attention turned to the military needs of these countries in the face of threatening Red aggression. The formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization followed as a subsequent step in our efforts to bolster Europe against the potential menace of Soviet...conquest. Meanwhile, the United States has not forgotten its friends on the other side of the world. We have underwritten a tremendous part of the Indochina conflict in spite of its tragic implications for the West, and we extended, to the maximum degree, both dollars and human lives: our resources to stem the conflict in Korea. In addition, as added evidence of our good will, we have financed the so-called Point Four Program which provides for technical assistance to under-developed nations. It would be difficult to fix the exact sum of money which all of these commitments have cost the United States, but suffice it to say that our own internal financial outlook would be much brighter had we been able to either avoid these expenditures or apply them

within the framework of our domestic economy. Unquestionably, we have benefitted by stabilizing the governments and helping to improve the standards of living among our friends abroad, for in so doing, we have shown good faith and given added meaning to the significance of democracy. In the present instance, however, we are being asked to maintain the heavy expenditure for foreign aid into the future, even though it was indicated by the administration that this foreign aid was to be terminated. I do not believe that we can indefinitely finance the governments of other nations without finally inflicting serious damage on our own way of life. But of even greater and more immediate significance is the fact that funds earlier appropriated for foreign aid, amounting to over nine billion dollars, has not as yet been expended. In other words, a backlog of money exists which still has not been used. Despite this fact, the administration has asked the Congress for additional billions of dollars this year to carry on foreign aid. While it is contended that the United States must evidence continued good faith toward its allies, especially as we approach the proposed meeting of the Big Four leaders, yet it goes without saying that we have already demonstrated an unusually generous attitude toward other friendly governments, and there is no reason to believe that in a clear emergency we would not lend money and further assistance. I would be willing to consider some additional appropriations for foreign aid when it has been determined that backlogged funds already on hand have been fully used. [05:01] Meanwhile, I should like to think that any available dollars that Congress feels can be appropriated will be used for some of the many needs of the American people within the bounds of our own country.

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 05:39]