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This Week In Congress Radio Address: The Birth of Abraham Lincoln, 1957 February 6  
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear  
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1957.

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. Each year during this week in February, it has been my custom to devote some remark in observance of the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln. Although the problems of the moment, both foreign and domestic, are more than sufficient in number and scope to occupy our time and our fullest effort, we can still gain much in knowledge and experience by looking back to earlier days when such men as Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington lent their wit, talent, and ability in behalf of our great republic. Lincoln the man is personified as one of history's greatest patriots. His image and memory are held today with a feeling of personal belonging. On the frontier where Lincoln was born, if a man worked hard and kept to his purpose, life could offer great opportunity. It was in this atmosphere that Lincoln developed (unintelligible [01:34]) and principle that helped make up his understanding of America. Wadsworth once said that the best portion of a man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness. While history records the greatest measure of Lincoln's public service during the turmoil of internal conflict, Lincoln the man, from the rough and tumble days of early political life through his last, tragic moment is also recalled for his personal characteristics of understanding and helpfulness. With the passing years, students of Lincoln appear to be increasing in number. His philosophy, his ideals, and his pursuits of life have therefore been brought more and more into the public. Fundamental to Lincoln was his abiding belief in divine providence, which helped to shape his great destiny. Coupled with this characteristic was his deep dedication to the individual in whom Lincoln believed rested the greatest strength and hope of the republic. Patriotism belongs to no age, nor is it limited to political affiliation, and so it is that we of this generation can learn much from Lincoln's deeds and his words. His words that were performed and written when the fate of the Union hung in the balance. It should be for us, therefore, a prime obligation in judging the common problem that now beset our kind of life, so look back and examine how Lincoln received and acted upon the hundreds responsibility that came to him so frequently. What better purpose can

history serve than as an experience to draw upon for solving our present-day obligation? One frequently hears the rather trite expression that nothing under the sun is ever really new. Debatable though this may be, history does support the thesis that most of mankind's ills and woes have existed from the dawn of civilization, and in striving to better himself over succeeding generations, mankind may do well to draw on the results of those who have preceded us and wrestled with the same past. Though historians will long argue that crisis in the Union which all but split asunder, but yet it is inevitable that Lincoln saw in the preservation of the Republic a challenging responsibility which had to be served if our way of life was to survive. It is most fitting, therefore, as Lincoln's anniversary is again observed, we call to mind that philosophy of life which he exemplified. It is fundamental to the meaning of our Constitutional government, and it is furthermore a guiding light both for the present and the future of how much and dearly a man's country means to himself.

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. [05:04] Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

**[End 05:15]**