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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Middle East Resolution Passes in House of  
Representatives, 1957 February 25  
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear  
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on February 25<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. The Senate appears to be nearing the conclusion of its debate on the so-called Middle East Resolution. It is possible that a final vote on the legislation will occur this week. Conceived as an instrument to promote peace and stability in the Middle Eastern area, the resolution has already passed the House of Representatives and has been approved by the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services in the Senate. As is generally known, the main purpose of this proposal is to put the Soviet Union on notice that Communist aggression in the Middle East would be a serious threat to the vital interests of the United States. To this end, the resolution declares the readiness of the United States to use armed forces for the defense of that area against overt, armed aggression by any country controlled by international Communism. It further enables the President to waive certain existing restrictions on the use of neutral security appropriations to the extent of two hundred million dollars for military and economic assistance to Middle East nations. Earlier this year, I raised questions concerning the desirability of expending further large sums of economic aid because of the tremendous amount of assistance which this country has already approved for many sections of the world. I believe strongly that the proposed two hundred million dollars under the Middle East Resolution will be insufficient to meet any real long-term needs in those countries. However, we cannot minimize the fact that the Middle East is important from the economic, geographic, strategic, and political points of view. Economically, the Middle East contains about seventy percent of the world's known oil reserves. Geographically, the Middle East is the link between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Strategically, under Western influence, the Middle East denies the Soviet Union one of its long-sought objectives, namely, to become a Mediterranean power. We know, too, that from the political viewpoint, the Middle East is important because of its cultural and religious association. It is well-known that the Soviet Union is endeavoring to become more closely associated with the Middle East in every way possible. I feel we are engrossed in somewhat of a

game of power politics with the Kremlin. But it is obvious that the West must become victorious for our own future welfare. Thus it appears that the interests of our country will be served by congressional approval of a resolution even though it does not fully meet all of the existing problems at hand. It is my further conviction that Congress should maintain a close and careful scrutiny on Middle East affairs in the days ahead in order to help guide the President and the Department of State in arranging our future course of foreign affairs in that vital part of the world. In this connection, the committee report, prepared for use during the overall debate on the resolution, is worthy of note. It is the judgment of the majority of the members of the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, quote, "That the basic problems of the Middle East are of long-standing, and are the cause of inflamed passions which frequently lead to irrational points of view and to irresponsible actions. It is highly questionable whether these problems can be settled all at once in some kind of package agreement." End of quote. It is to be strongly hoped that approval of this legislation will also be a constructive step in bringing about a settlement of some of the major differences which presently exist among countries in that turbulent section of the world. The continuing dispute between Israel and Egypt is of particular concern and must be peacefully settled promptly.

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 04:45]**