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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Consequences of U.S. Involvement in the Middle East,  
1957 March 18

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

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 18<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. An interesting parallel of events occurred during the past week as Congress moved forward on a number of significant legislative responsibilities. Among these were consideration of the President's budget, and it is in this connection that a number of the members of the Congress perceived a relationship between the military phase of the budget and the existing international situation in the Middle East, for as we all know, the negotiations which recently led to the peaceful exodus of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and their replacement by soldiers under the direction of the United Nations threatened to go for naught in light of the newest developments in that tiny section of the Middle East. The return of Egyptian authorities to Gaza and the uncertainty of free passage of Israeli vessels through the Gulf of Aqaba have already precipitated urgent discussions between Israeli leaders and the United States. You will recall that only a few weeks ago, our government also conferred officially with representatives of various Arab nations. The entire picture points up, at least to some, the possibility of a request to the United States for participation or involvement in the newest Mid-East crisis. To become thus engaged, our country would, either through the medium of the so-called Eisenhower Middle East Doctrine, or some other arrangement, probably enlarge the scope of our planned military activities. A logical consequence could be an increase of the budget figures for national defense. Of course, it is the official position of the United States to negotiate the continuing Israeli-Arab dispute through the United Nations, and it is hoped that the matter can, and will be settled, though the offices of that agency. But as a practical matter, the determined efforts of the members of Congress to reduce Federal spending during the next fiscal year, and to work toward a reasonable reduction in Federal taxes are uncertain because of the continuing, and perhaps increasingly serious developments in the Middle East. However, despite uncertainties in that section of the world, I continue to feel most strongly that Congress must not abdicate or give up its responsibility to the American people in the matter of making significant reductions in Federal

expenditures for the next fiscal year. The volume of demands from the people of Delaware and the people from other states to cut down government appropriations is a call that must be answered in the affirmative. Not for several years have I personally received such a sustained and widespread number of requests from Delawareans for definite action to lessen Federal spending. It is apparent that the people of our state are becoming fully aware of the staggering cost merely to maintain, much less increase, the functions of the Federal government. Obviously then it is not only desirable to comply with the public desire to reduce spending, but also a clear-cut responsibility to our citizens that we promptly and effectively comply with their directive in this regard.

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]**