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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Opening of the 2nd Session of the 85th Congress,  
1957 December 30

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

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on December 30<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. As the Eighty-Fifth Congress returns for its second and final session, two distinct characteristics are evident on Capitol Hill. One is the customary spirit of goodwill as members of the House and Senate renew friendships and exchange ideas. The second characteristic, clearly apparent among the membership, is one quite in contrast to the somewhat relaxed attitudes of more normal times. It is a sense of real urgency and of recognition by the American people, and through them, the members of Congress, that the months immediately ahead will require a most serious and dedicated approach to national and international responsibilities. Because time is such a critical factor in these days, the country anticipates quite early and definite attention by the Congress and the executive branch of the government to the problems of ensuring an adequate national defense system sufficient and capable of meeting the needs of this scientific age. Congress has a background on which to base its judgment in matters of national security. The NATO conference last month in Paris has afforded evidence of how our European allies view the international situation. The recent hearings by the Preparedness subcommittee in the Senate, which has examined certain aspects of our missile program, give the Congress some facts of extreme importance with regard to research, development, and production of weapons for the present and immediate future. At the same time, many individual members of both the Senate and House have been conferring privately with government, business, and professional leaders to secure additional information for use as a guide in their consideration for related legislation. As I mentioned last week, increased military spending appears to be a foregone conclusion. The extent and the scope of the higher appropriations will almost certainly depend on the conclusions which the Congress reaches after its own appraisal of the situation, plus a review of the President's recommendation in his State of the Union message and in subsequent messages to the Senate and House membership. The tasks in hand are demanding, thus little or no time should be lost by Congress in getting down to work on its legislative obligations. And though we will

probably devote our immediate efforts to problems in the international field, there are also domestic issues, such as housing, unemployment, increased compensation for Federal employees, the farm program, small business, and other matters awaiting congressional attention. These too much be dealt with realistically and as promptly as conditions permit. Obviously, therefore, the Congress has its own work pattern already quite well defined, at least in the broad aspects. Some of the legislative decisions which appear necessary may not be overly pleasing to the country at large. For instance, the absence of tax relief for this year is a virtual certainty. Indeed, the prevention of further increase of Federal taxes may even be difficult in light of demand for government spending. I believe that one of the greatest pressures on Congress may be to appropriate heavily, not only for various items of national defense, but in such related areas as foreign economic aid, education, and other issues which are perpetually encouraged before the House and Senate whenever the Congress is in session. Important though some of these matters may seem to be, the nation cannot afford to plunge deeply into deficit financing to approve them without risking Federal insolvency and all that such a condition entails. We in Delaware are already acutely aware of the impact not only of Federal taxes, but of increased State taxes as well. It is indeed my hope and desire that the Federal government will not encourage further inroads upon the taxpaying public.

Mr. Kelly:

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. [05:06] Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 05:17]