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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Amendment to the Mutual Security Act of 1954,
1958 May 12

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 12th, 1958.

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. This week may bring a final vote by the House of Representatives on pending amendments to the Mutual Security Act of 1954. This is, of course, the current foreign aid bill, and if favorably considered, will authorize additional funds for military and economic assistance abroad. Following House action, this legislation will be referred to the Senate for review and consideration. Later, should the measure be approved by both the House and Senate, the actual money to implement the program will be sought through the medium of an appropriation bill. It is somewhat ironic that the request for additional assistance by the United States to friendly countries in other parts of the world should follow in the backwash of the regrettable incidents in South America where the Vice President is now visiting. Undoubtedly, these attempts to intimidate United States officials were created by communist groups. It is of course hoped that these South American governments will deal firmly with such hoodlum activities if they break out again. More important, however, is the new concern here in Washington that the tentatively planned visit by the Vice President to Europe may bring similar outbursts in the countries on his scheduled trip there. It is apparently evident that the established governments, both in South America and in Europe, who are friendly to the United States regret and deplore these hostile acts toward our country. It is also obvious that regardless of our generosity and good will, the people of this nation cannot buy friendship, no matter what the price. Even though we Americans have given nearly sixty billion dollars in foreign aid over the past eleven years, we must still face the fact that the people of Europe and South America, and for that matter, in most other parts of the world, do not necessarily subscribe or support all of the objectives which we have proposed in matters of international defense and economic security. One immediate reaction to the incidents of violence in South America has been the demand that the United States halt further appropriations of foreign assistance. However, while this would undoubtedly embarrass these governments abroad, it might also have a far more serious effect insofar as their military and

economic stability is concerned. For despite our misgivings over the wisdom of continued foreign assistance, the fact remains that the Mutual Security Program has all but become a permanent part of this country's overall foreign policy, and we shall probably continue granting assistance for many years to come. Hopefully, the amounts of money to be appropriated can be lessened. I have in the past encouraged reduction in foreign economic assistance because of the fact that funds earlier approved had not been utilized, and that, therefore, no new monies should be appropriated until the earlier amounts are either expended or had been designated for specific use. This year, after I have read the hearings and listened to the debate, I shall attempt to formulate what I hope to be a reasonable decision as to the extent of further aid. Many Delawareans have already expressed their views to me on this subject. I am glad to have these expressions of interest as the legislation continues to receive congressional attention.

[05:04]

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 05:27]