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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Summit Conference concerning the Division of Berlin,
1959 May 18

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

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 18th, 1959.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, 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 end of the first week's negotiations by the foreign ministers in Geneva has given the West a reasonable indication of what the Soviet attitude is going to be toward any real effort to resolve the faithful issue of a divided Germany. Faced with the newest allied proposal for a settlement, one which would unite the East and West German states, the Russian delegation immediately hedged until they could develop an effective rebuttal. This effort appeared to be still in the making as the first days of the conference drew to a close. As is quite evident, the Russians are counting on the foreign ministers' gathering as a preliminary to a summit conference later in the spring or summer, possibly here in the United States. However, if the preparatory meeting of the foreign ministers produces no affirmative basis for discussion by the heads of state, the summit meeting will probably be called off. Indications are quite clear that the Soviet Premier Khrushchev very much wants a summit conference, especially one that will include President Eisenhower as a participant. As a matter of fact, when I talked with Mr. Khrushchev several years ago in the Kremlin, I had the impression that he desired to see the United States if an appropriate invitation could be arranged. It may be recalled that the earlier Geneva Conference in the summer of 1955 was a failure insofar as easing world tensions were concerned. And it was only a few weeks after that meeting that I met the Red dictator in the Soviet capital. Understandably, the Russians fear a united and re-armed Germany on their Western borders. No one will deny that the Soviet Union suffered enormous losses in both human lives and material resources from the German invasion of World War II. But as the present Red leaders know, West Germany has rebuilt itself under a democratic form of government and is now closely allied to the other free countries of Europe as well as the United States. So it is apparent that the Kremlin's biggest concern is not a German military threat, but a further demonstration that its puppet state of East Germany and other captured satellites would gladly exchange their present status for real self-government at a moment's notice. Thus, around the conference tables at Geneva, the Soviet diplomats are striving to preserve not only their physical

empire, but to prevent any loss to the prestige of the Communist system. In recent weeks, the brutal suppression of the people of Tibet by the Chinese Communists has gravely alarmed millions of the so-called uncommitted peoples of Asia. This action by the Reds, and the tragedy of Hungary, have helped to dramatize the real and desperate methods which Communism employs to keep its way of life in being. In Washington, Congress and most other Americans have read the news reports from Geneva with interest and concern, for the smoldering question of a divided Germany continues to threaten world peace. West Berlin itself, an island surrounded by the Reds, is in a most critical position. Obviously, the people there would fight to protect their freedom. The United States and its allies are likewise committed. It seems that the Soviet leaders would not risk war in Germany because of the frightening consequences that could result. And yet, because we cannot be certain of what the Red leaders would really do if their situation becomes desperate, the Western powers endeavor to negotiate in the peaceful atmosphere of the conference table. Endless and frustrating though this procedure has been, it is always possible that at the same time, or other, the diplomatic dam will crumble, and light and understanding will penetrate the recesses of the Iron Curtain.

[5:05]

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, from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 05:26]