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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Arab/Israeli Conflict in the Middle East,
1956 February 27

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on February 27th, 1956.

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 in Washington, added attention is being focused on the controversy in the Middle East involving the Arab states in Israel. Our secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, is in the process of exchanging further views with the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee over the position of the United States in this potentially explosive crisis. Concern has been expressed publicly and privately in many quarters that a full-scale conflict could erupt in the Middle East and possibly touch off added violence elsewhere. Suggestions for dealing with the situation have been plentiful, and range all the way from direct intervention by American troops to complete isolation of this country from the whole problem. Neither extreme, in my judgment, is a practical answer. The United States, by virtue of its world leadership, must necessarily be closely concerned with almost any situation, and surely the one presently confronting us in the Middle East. To find an acceptable solution is one of the most pressing questions currently being discussed here in the national capital. Demands have come from some sources that the United States make available arms to the country of Israel to counteract the sale of weapons to the Arab countries by Russia. At the same time, however, the United States finds itself committed to the sale of a quantity of tanks for the Arabs, which further clouds the whole picture. And answer to this dilemma must be found. Highly charged emotional statements by partisans on either side of the issue are of low value and could provoke serious consequences. A good deal of calm and sober reflection is taking place over events in this troubled area. In fact, there are some who believe that neither Israel nor the Arab states are willing to risk an all-out conflict because any territorial gain by either side would surely be offset by the tremendous materiel destruction of the opposing forces, not to mention the loss in human lives. I am therefore confident that the United States will continue to actively, but carefully, explore the avenues leading to a peaceful end of differences between the Arab lands and the Israeli neighbors. Meanwhile, the question of a protracted extension of foreign aid to meet Russia's economic offensive in Asia and

elsewhere is being placed before Congress by the Department of State. Although I have not yet examined in detail the specific provisions which are likely to accompany a request of this type, I hold rather strong reservations over the wisdom of committing this country to a fixed amount of foreign aid over the next ten years, as has been suggested by the State Department. Certainly, such a request should be justified before Congress approves it. The present healthy economic state of Western Europe is one factor which, in my mind, makes further extension of economic aid questionable to that section of the world. Military assistance is, of course, another matter. We are committed in this category under NATO and other treaties to support the program of collective security against Red aggression. On the other hand, technical assistance to underdeveloped nations, such as those in Asia, is a type of activity from which the United States has gained much while at the same time giving tactical and effective assistance where it is most needed. [05:01] I do not wish to belabor this question of foreign economic aid, for as many Delawareans know, I frequently have occasion to mention this subject in the course of these weekly statements. However, I express the view that this country cannot afford to indefinitely spend millions of its taxpayer's dollars to help the rest of the world without sooner or later inflicting serious damage to our own way of life.

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 05:57]