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This Week In Congress Radio Address: The Primary Question About the New Farm Bill, 1956  
March 2

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

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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. Against the background of last week's significant political development, Congress has resumed its legislative deliberations on issues of major importance in both domestic and foreign affairs. It is only natural that the remaining months of the present congressional session will see increasing political emphasis on almost every item of business to come before the Senate and House of Representatives. One of these will undoubtedly be the Farm program, now under Senate debate. The biggest question of this particular issue is as yet unanswered, namely, can any new farm bill restore farm prices in those depressed areas to an extent which will satisfy the farm population. This problem is far more important economically than politically, although the latter category will possibly draw greater attention. We know, of course, that one of the most controversial features of the pending farm legislation is the proposal to reestablish so-called the rigid supports in place of the flexible system now in existence. Incidentally, voting on various amendments to the pending Farm Bill and probable final passage on the bill itself is likely to occur on Thursday or Friday. While primary interest was focused on the week's political development, the Senate's Internal Security Subcommittee continued its hearings on the problem of Soviet espionage activities here in the United States. Vigilance by this senate committee in robing Red tactics is as important to the nation's welfare as are our defense preparations for although the recent Soviet congress in Moscow gave evidence of a change in policies, it is readily apparent that the basic objective of the Kremlin's leaders to bring about the downfall of the free world remains the same. In the other activities of the past week, I had the pleasure of offering a joint resolution to set aside December 1<sup>st</sup> as Civil Air Patrol Day throughout the nation. It is my hope that the Senate will see fit to approve this legislation promptly, and thus pay tribute to the excellent work being performed by our Civil Air Patrol in Delaware and other states of the union. And getting back to major legislation, the Senate Finance Committee continued public hearings on the Social Security Bill, with as yet no dates set for its reporting to the Senate. As you know,

executive hearings will follow public testimony in order to give the committee members an opportunity to prepare the legislation in final form on the basis of recommendations received over the past six weeks from various witnesses. Also of much importance is the Highway Revenue Act, which establishes the means by which we shall pay for our proposed new highway program. Last week, the House Committee on Ways and Means favorably reported this legislation, and assuming that it is approved by the full membership of the House, the Senate Finance Committee will then await its opportunity to review the legislation on the Senate side of Capitol Hill. Of course, no one doubts the necessity of an expanded highway program, but there are sharp differences over just how best to finance it. I believe, however, that we will have a Highway Revenue Act as the law of the land before Congress adjourns. Finally, Congress was honored this past week by a visit from the President of Italy, who addressed a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives on Wednesday. The position of Italy as a member of the family of free nations is important to the United States. We were all happy to see and hear Italy's Chief of State during his stay in Washington, and we trust this his presence in our country will further cement the close ties between the American and Italian people.

**[04:54]**

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 05:18]**