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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Opening of 1st Session of 86th Congress,  
1959 January 2

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

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1959.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear brings to the people of Delaware the first in a new series of weekly programs on current congressional affairs. This broadcast inaugurates Senator Frear's eleventh year of weekly statements, during which he discusses legislation and other matters of national interest of concern to his office as United States Senator from the state of Delaware. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. The Eighty-Sixth Congress, with many new faces in both the Senate and House of Representatives, is convening this week in Washington. As always, the beginnings of a new session are bright with hopes and plans for a broadly successful legislative year. The Presidential message on the State of the Union, the individual proposals of the representative members of the Senate and House, and in fact, the general tenor of official Washington, is customarily one of vigor and forthrightness. But like all things human, people and events are subject to change and, once the Eighty-Sixth Congress settles down to the demanding responsibilities of considering legislation which will affect the one hundred and seventy-five million people of the United States, and indirectly, millions of other persons throughout the world, it will be found that many of the same old problems with which earlier Congresses and Presidents have also wrestled, are still much in evidence. Thus, a great bulk of legislative activity will concern itself with crises and the Cold War abroad; inflation, budget-balancing, spending, and employment here at home. Usually when a new member of the Congress comes to Washington, he is eager and anxious to have legislation in which he is particularly interested enacted with as much rapidity as possible. This is a very natural desire, but historically, Congress, and especially the Senate, move somewhat slowly and with great deliberation. While some students of government criticize this procedure, I personally feel that it is basically sound. The Senate of the United States is probably the last, great deliberative body in the world today. Each of the forty-nine states, whether large or small, is represented equally in the organization of the Senate. To limit or restrict the right of any member to discuss or debate the issues which properly come before it is to compromise the fundamental purpose for which the Senate was established under our

Federal Constitution. Surely, Congress is an imperfect body and has made mistakes. In the past, there have been perhaps legislative delay due to extensive debate, which were not in the best public interest, but in the examination of the overall record of earlier Congresses will, I believe, reflect the fact that both the Senate and House, generally, support the deserving interests of the majority of the American people. In the weeks ahead, I shall discuss a number of specific legislative matters which will be coming before this new Eighty-Sixth Congress. As in the past, the purpose of these brief, weekly comments will not be designed to sway public opinion in Delaware one way or the other, but rather to inform so that the people can determine their own opinions and conclusions. I look forward to a continuation of the many written expressions and personal visits from Delawareans which constitute such a vital part of a legislator's responsibility here in the nation's capital.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the first of his new series of weekly statements on current congressional affairs. **[05:01]** Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

**[End 05:11]**