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

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 5th, 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. It is indeed a pleasure to once again resume these statements after a brief, enforced absence. I am pleased to say that recovery is taking place rapidly, and I am able to resume limited legislative activities with the exception that a full schedule of duties will occur next week. Our new Secretary of State this week begins his first major diplomatic negotiations since taking office a few days ago. Mr. Christian Herter meets with other foreign Western ministers in Paris to finalize the Allied position before the scheduled conference with the Russian representatives in mid-May. It is now generally assumed that a summit conference of heads of state will follow the foreign ministers' gathering sometime later in the summer. In approaching his new and greater responsibilities, Secretary Herter carries with him the warmest wishes of success from the American people. That virtually unanimous bipartisan support is assured for the new secretary in his pending conferences as it was reflected in the prompt and forthright manner by which his nomination was received and acted upon by the Senate. In granting this rapid approval, the Senate demonstrated a deep and underlying concern over the unsettled Berlin crisis and other differences between the Kremlin and the free governments of the world. Similar apprehension is evident among the public at large. Therefore, much will depend on Mr. Herter's ability to pursue a course of action that will preserve and strengthen the objectives of the Western nations without, however, discouraging opportunities for settling major policy differences that have perpetuated the Cold War for so many years. Congress can be expected to maintain close attention to developments in the international field during the days immediately ahead. This is true for many reasons, among them the fact that our current budget for national defense and the new foreign aid authorization and appropriation bills will be forthcoming during the next few weeks. Each of these legislative proposals is closely aligned with, and may be affected directly by, decisions in the field of foreign affairs. A sudden increase in international tension between the Soviet Union and the United States or its allies could have an immediate repercussion on defense spending. By the same token, our program of military and economic assistance abroad is subject to revision.

Sometimes, letters are received asking why members of Congress so frequently express themselves on foreign policy when this responsibility is basically that of the President and Secretary of State. The answer lies, of course, as I have just indicated, in the obligation of the Congress to authorize and appropriate funds with which to implement our overseas commitment. It is thus desirable and indeed incumbent upon the membership of the Senate and House of Representatives to be acquainted with many phases of government policy, foreign as well as domestic.

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 04:57]