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This Week In Congress Radio Address: President's Budget Proposal for Coming Fiscal Year,  
1957 January 18

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

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1957.

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, Bob. The past week, though given over in large measure to the Presidential Inauguration Program, also brought wide and diversified comments on the President's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. In the days ahead as Congress begins consideration of the many items in the budget, I hope to comment in greater detail about individual appropriation requests. Meanwhile, it is worth noting that the general breakdown of funds indicates that, once again, the major portion of money to be expended by the Federal government will go for national defense and related activities. The actual sum sought is forty-five billion, three hundred million dollars out of the total record-sized budget of nearly seventy-two billion dollars. Though this is a staggering amount of money, we recognize the far-reaching scope of our military obligations, which extend vastly beyond our own shores. As the leader of the world's free people, we are challenged with the responsibility for having to help protect their interests against the threat of aggression. Part of the tremendous cost of defense may be attributed to the fact that modern weapons have become increasingly scientific in nature. The cost of their construction and for the training of personnel to operate them has multiplied many times. It seems evident that this trend will not only be maintained at its present pace, but continued in the future. For as we all know, many conventional weapons for ground, sea, and air use are rapidly tending toward obsolescence in the face of these technical advancements in the nuclear and electronic field. At this time of the year when the budget proposals are forthcoming, we customarily hear a statement, made rather wistfully, that if the funds necessary for national defense could be utilized for the social and economic ills that beset much of mankind, the world would become a much better place in which to live. However, the realities of this age appear to leave us no choice but to prepare constantly and carefully for the common danger which increasingly confronts our way of life. Each of us makes a real contribution to the cost of our government. Over half of the anticipated Federal receipts, which will support next year's budget, must come from individual income taxes. The estimated percentage is actually

fifty-one percent. The remainder is divided among corporate and excise taxes, plus some miscellaneous items. It is because the defense budget is already so high that many of us in Congress are carefully examining proposals to increase our foreign military and economic aid to the Middle East. I have commented on this situation during the past two weeks. While none of us wants to lessen the efficiency of our national defense, nor do we desire to see other essential government services curtailed, yet it is only logical and consistent to believe that a reduction in the overall budget can be made at the appropriate time. In fact, the Secretary of the Treasury has indicated that this will be possible, though perhaps difficult. While all of us respect the judgment of the President and his advisors, the committees of Congress, who are charged with the responsibility of representing their individual states and districts, may be expected to encourage, whenever possible, lesser amounts of Federal funds for various projects than those requested. A comprehensive study of the Federal budget cannot be compiled overnight. It takes careful examination and research to fully appreciate the significance of the budget and its application. Unfortunately, the subject is quite technical and not readily assimilated by the taxpayers. But all of us who pay taxes want a first-hand knowledge of the cost of running our national government, for it is directly related to the question of whether or not tax relief in the foreseeable future is possible. I plan to discuss this subject, and related ones, in subsequent statements in the weeks immediately ahead.

**[05:04]**

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, United States Senator J. Allen Frear has reported again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs.

**[End 05:20]**