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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Frear Delegate 47th Interparliamentary Con,
1958 July 22

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

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on July 22nd, 1958.

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, I will be away from Washington in order to attend the forty-seventh Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which convened a few days ago in the republic of Brazil in South America. This is the third time that I have been honored by being appointed as a delegate to this very important gathering. This year's meeting will mark the first time in the history of the Union that the assemblage has taken place in Latin America. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference brings together, each year, representatives of the various legislative bodies of countries throughout the world. It may be likened to a summit conference, except that instead of the heads of state, it involves the legislative representatives of the participating governments. And although the decisions reached at the conference are not necessarily binding, they are often reflected in the subsequent decisions made by the various delegates when they have returned to their respective homelands. Usually this meeting is held after the American Congress has recessed each year. However, Brazil is holding important national elections later in the fall, and for that reason, it was not possible for the Brazilian government to schedule the 1958 meeting any later than July. Because our own Congress is currently considering a number of highly important pieces of legislation, I was quite reluctant to leave Washington at this particular time. In fact, I had tentatively determined not to make this trip because of these obligations. But upon the urgent recommendation of the Senate majority leader, and after additional conversations on the subject had been completed at the White House, it was felt that the interests of the United States would be well-served by ensuring the presence at the conference of bipartisan representation of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. This conclusion was arrived at for a number of reasons. First, to cancel the trip might be considered as an affront to our good neighbors in Latin America. In the aftermath of recent anti-American demonstrations there, it might appear that the United States was ignoring our loyal friends below the border as a gesture of our displeasure over the outbursts against the Vice President. Actually, of course, these incidents reflected the necessity

for closer cooperation and understanding between the United States and South America, and for that reason, our government is as anxious as possible to take necessary steps which will bring about closer ties with these various governments. Then two, the Soviet Union sends a very large delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary meeting. Once present, the Russians put on quite a demonstration in an effort to call attention to their importance as a great world power. While the United States delegation customarily displays a more conservative attitude at these conferences, it is nonetheless of major importance that the American group be present in full strength and properly prepared to debate whatever issues are brought up during the course of the conference sessions. It was also felt, in view of the Middle-East crisis, and the probable effort of the Soviet delegation to capitalize on this situation, that the United States representatives should be adequately and factually prepared to deal with the Mid-East issue in a way which will counterbalance the Russian propaganda efforts. Thus, the leadership and participation of the United States' delegation in this year's Inter-Parliamentary Conference is of fundamental importance. As much as I personally regret the necessity to be away from Washington this week, I feel that the obligations of this conference and the responsibility involved warrant my presence and that of other members of the Senate and House of Representatives at Rio de Janeiro.

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 05:03]