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This Week In Congress Radio Address: President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev Meet,
1959 August 7

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on August 7th, 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. In the background of preparations for the forthcoming exchange of visits between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev, much concern is being expressed as to the probable effects within the satellite countries of the Soviet Union. While most people see in the meetings of the American and Russian leaders the possibility of easing direct tensions, there is as yet no indication that the meeting will in any way affect the plight of the so-called captive nations. Indeed, it is more than likely that the Kremlin will continue to insist that the status of these countries and their relationship to Soviet Russia is a matter of private concern and there should be no interference from the West. For that reason, representatives of the captive nations, and many other Americans, deeply concerned with the welfare of countries behind the Iron Curtain have been expressing the hope, and even the demand, that our government continue to maintain, and strengthen if possible, its attitude of sympathy and support toward the eventual objective of freedom for these countries. While armed uprisings, such as the ill-fated effort on the part of Hungary, are not being encouraged, other means of impressing on the Soviet Union our concern for these satellite nations have been urged. Among them is the proposed insistence on the part of this government that any long-range settlement of the East-West differences take into account the status of the captive countries. Important as this matter is to the affected nations and to the United States, it is of equal concern to the so-called neutral or uncommitted peoples who in recent years have been wooed by Communist offers of economic assistance. It seems to be that if the United States continues to defend the rights of any nation to enjoy personal freedom, it would considerably strengthen the attitude of the small neutral countries against too much involvement with the Kremlin at the expense of the West. All of us can and do hope that the most recent turn of events in international affairs will produce fruitful results. Without appearing to discourage the outcome, however, it is worth noting that we have already had visits by two of the Soviet Union's ranking Communist leaders, but no change has been detected in Russia's attitude either toward the settlement of the Berlin crisis

or any other areas where East and West are in dispute over the status of boundaries or governments. Thus, those who expect a sudden and miraculous evaporation of the Cold War are likely to be keenly disappointed. Rather, it seems that any tangible measure of success from the upcoming conferences will be slow to develop and may do so only after further and more formal diplomatic exchanges. It is interesting to note that reaction from Delaware on the Khrushchev visit is mixed. There had been strong expressions of opposition, and there have been opinions of more moderate veins, suggesting that once the Kremlin leader sees the United States, he will be more convinced not only of its great strength, but of its basic desire for peace. I am glad to share this latter view, although emphasizing that Russia already knows a good deal about the United States from the careful and analytical studies which its experts are constantly making from every available source of information. [05:00] And so, we may sum up these thoughts with the cautious hope that some success will attend the meetings of the American President and the Russian dictator, and that the restoration of freedom in the captive countries will not be forgotten. Only time and future events will tell.

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 05:44]