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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Senate Considers Agriculture Appropriation Bills,  
1959 June 1

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. The Senate begins a schedule of legislative activity which may well clear a major portion of the remaining congressional responsibilities within the next six or seven weeks. In addition to its regular five-day schedule, it now appears the Senators may also be in session on Saturdays. Chief among the Senate's immediate legislative undertakings are appropriation bills. Although a number of these big money measures have already been acted upon, others are still either before the House or Senate for action. As it begins this week, the Senate takes up first the Agricultural Appropriations Bill, which is always a controversial and much-debated subject. In the meantime, a number of committee meetings on legislation of one type or another are being scheduled. One of these is the Finance Committee, which on Tuesday of this week takes up legislation to extend the Renegotiation Act, a measure that has already passed the House. Getting back to the first item of business, the Agricultural Department Appropriation, it might be of interest to point out that the bill as approved by the Senate Committee on Appropriations would provide a total of about four billion dollars to operate the huge and sprawling Federal agricultural responsibilities for the next fiscal year. The exact amount of the Senate bill as proposed is three billion, nine hundred and seventy-five million, five hundred and five thousand, one hundred and forty-eight dollars (\$3,975,505,148). This is an increase of more than thirty-six million dollars over the amount passed by the House. There will obviously be differences in the final amount approved by the two bodies of Congress, and thus a joint legislative conference will be required to agree on a final figure. However, the particular point worth noting is the total of funds being spent for just one Federal department. I am sure that many people find it difficult to understand, or agree, with the expenditure of this amount of money for agriculture at a time when a surplus of many farm products, wheat and corn, for instance, are almost bursting our costly storage bins which are located in various sections of the country. As debate is carried forward on this appropriation bill, we will again hear the urgings of some members that all or most of the farm subsidies be removed entirely or curtailed to a major

extent so that the farmer can operate under the same economic principles as most other business enterprises operate. I believe that my personal views towards farm subsidies are pretty well known. Basically, I am not in sympathy with them, for to pay subsidies of any kind, the government must take money from one tax payer, process it through the Federal Treasury, and then pay it out to another. This is perhaps an oversimplification of the subsidy picture, but since the government does not create or produce any wealth of its own, it must rely on the ingenuity and willingness of the public at large to provide necessary taxes for subsidies and other Federal requirements. At a time when defense costs are soaring as we move deeper and deeper into the exploration of outer space, every possible precaution must be taken against overspending. Present tax rates are all but confiscatory at the present time. Unless a leveling off occurs and a sustained effort is made to permit the retention of more earnings, we risk an even more dominant influence on the part of the Federal government into the affairs of us all.

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 05:15]**