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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Death of Stalin, 1953 March 11

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on March 6th, 1953, and played on WDOV March 11th, 1953.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear brings to the people of Delaware the tenth in a series of brief weekly reports on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you. In the comparatively brief period of time that has elapsed since the announced death of Premier Stalin, intense and widespread speculation has swept the capitals of the world. It goes without saying that the new leadership within the Kremlin will be of the most significant concern to the United States because of our recognized supremacy in the world's block of free nations. It appears doubtful that any major modification of Russia's policies will be evident immediately, if at all. The basic character of Bolshevism as enunciated by both Lenin and Stalin calls for world revolution and destruction of the capitalistic system. The followers of Stalin within the Kremlin, no matter what their personal likes and dislikes for each other, are undoubtedly steeped in this tradition and zealously devoted to these communistic principles. This thinking has long since permeated down through the lesser officials of the communist party. Not only within the Soviet Union and its satellites, but to those members of the party and many other countries of the world. It can be expected, therefore, that party discipline, built up as the result of long training and indoctrination, stands a good chance of holding firm, temporarily. This, I think, will be especially true if the potential successors to Stalin act swiftly to devise new leadership for the country and the communist party. It has been suggested that the high-ranking communists, such as Molotov (phonetic), Malenkov (phonetic), Bulganin (phonetic), or Beria (phonetic [02:46]) may be unable to decide on who the new leader will be. And as a result, bringing about dissension and strife within the party's fold. Should such an eventuality occur, it could conceivably cause serious defections within the ranks of world communists. We know from the recent history of Hitler's empire that once the leadership crumbled, the whole Nazi system fell apart. In the present crisis within the Kremlin, there are undoubtedly a group of power hungry and ruthless men whose personal ambitions transcend all else. The people within the satellite countries, most of whom are oppressed and downtrodden, would undoubtedly welcome a battle for supremacy among the Kremlin's top communists because it would upset party discipline and perhaps open the way for revolt. I am sure that the courageous people of Poland, Lithuania,

Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and other countries are hoping against hope that the opportunity will arise whereby they can cast off the communist yoke and live again as free and independent citizens. The implications attendant to the death of Stalin become all the more significant, therefore when one considers what could happen if the Iron Curtain begins to tear apart. Although most Americans would like to sympathize with the Russian people over the loss of their leader, there is certainly no cause for sorrow at the death of Stalin himself. We know that thousands of Americans would be alive today had not Stalin and his henchmen launched the conflict in Korea. I hope that this country and others can carefully, but efficiently, exploit any political upheaval which may be possible within the Soviet Union. In the desperate struggle which we are waging against the Kremlin, no opportunity should be overlooked to increase our chances of halting the spread of communism and restoring freedom and independence to the millions of men, women, and children, who now must bend to the will of the Bolsheviks or perish.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in the tenth of a series of brief commentaries to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear spoke from the Senate Office Building in Washington and will be heard again next week at this same time.

[End 05:44]