The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Published by
The Evening Star Newspaper Company.
SAMUEL H. KAUFFMANN, President.
B. M. McKELWAY, Editor.

MAIN OFFICE: 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 270 Madison Ave.
CHICAGO OFFICE: 435 North Michigan Ave.

Delivered by Carrier.

Evening and Sunday	Evening	Sunday
Monthly 1.20*	Monthly 90c	10c per copy
Weekly 30c	Weekly 20c	10c per copy

*10c additional when 5 Sundays are in a month.
Also 10c additional for Night Final Edition.

Rates by Mail—Payable in Advance.
Anywhere in United States

Evening and Sunday	Evening	Sunday
1 year 18.00	1 year 11.50	1 year 7.50
6 months 9.50	6 months .. 6.00	6 months .. 4.00
1 month 1.60	1 month 1.10	1 Month 70c

Telephone STerling 5000
Entered at the Post Office, Washington, D. C. as second-class mail matter.

Member of the Associated Press.
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A—18 * THURSDAY, July 13, 1950

Organizing Civil Defense

If there has been fumbling in the organization of civil defense for Washington it has been due to the darkness surrounding the objectives and extent of such organization. The Korean war sheds light. From now on the organization should proceed along lines that are tangible and clear.

Some time ago the Commissioners and other municipal officials, under the able direction of General Gordon Young, drew up a rough blueprint of what should be done. But legislation was needed to make anything effective and it was a wise decision to await legislation that would give civil defense the important status it deserves.

The first step contemplated by the Commissioners was appointment of a director in charge of planning. For this $10,000 was asked, but was turned down by the House Appropriations Committee. Another effort was made for a $30,000 appropriation. This request was lost on a point of order in committee, for no enabling legislation had been prepared to back it up. The necessary legislation was then drawn and introduced by Chairman McMillan of the House District Committee. It is pending in the House and may be acted on today.

In studying this legislation, the District Committee was informed by representatives of the National Security Resources Board and General Young that about $200,000 would be necessary. That guess has been increased and a request for $290,000 was sent to Congress yesterday by the Budget Bureau to finance civil defense in the District. This is only a beginning.

This history illustrates the increasing tempo of preparations for the worst following our initial reverses in Korea. Approval of legislation and requested appropriations will mean not merely planning, but establishment of the skeleton organization necessary to make plans effective. The need for prompt action ought to be obvious. If any argument is needed, however, it was succinctly supplied yesterday by Former Undersecretary Tracy S. Voorhees, who told a House committee that atomic attack on Atlantic Coast cities "is now more than a possibility." Elucidation of the need of organized preparation to meet that eventuality is merely a waste of words.

A Matter of Common Sense

There is nothing particularly surprising about the report that congressional leaders have decided to shelve the tax bill offering consumers relief from excise levies. The course of events has made such a move practically mandatory. The struggle in Korea—apart from its grim meaning in terms of American lives—is going to cost this Nation a lot of money. Further than that, with the threat of another world war seeming much too real to be belittled, all signs point to the need for a heavy increase in our defense expenditures and for a swift and large-scale expansion of our preparedness program in general. That being the case, few things could be more untimely than legislation to reduce Federal revenues. They must be kept up. By the same token, every effort must be made to do away with non-essential domestic spending. In these days, with the future full of dark uncertainties, any other policy—any easy-come-easy-go fiscal attitude—would do violence to common sense.

Plus and Minus in Carolina

The President, who has little love for Senator Johnston, but who loves Governor Thurmond less, can take some satisfaction from the results of the senatorial primary in South Carolina.

During the campaign, both men disclaimed any fondness for the President, both railed against the Civil Rights program, and both beat the drums of white supremacy. But Governor Thurmond, in 1948, ran on the States' Rights ticket and took 39 electoral votes away from Mr. Truman. If Senator Johnston did nothing for Mr. Truman, he at least did not desert the party, and so, from the President's point of view, he is the lesser of two evils. That may be small consolation after the defeat of Senator Pepper in Florida and Senator Graham in North Carolina. But for one who thinks as Mr. Truman does politically, it is better than nothing.

There will be little comfort for the President, however, in the outcome of the gubernatorial primary. James F. Byrnes, opposed by three other candidates, got more than twice as many votes as all of his opponents combined. So South Carolina's next Governor will be a man who, at the age of 71, can look back over a public career that has no parallel. At one time or another he has served in both House and Senate, on the Supreme Court, as Director of War Mobilization, as "assistant President," and as Secretary of State. Had it not been for the opposition of Sidney Hillman, he might be sitting where Mr. Truman sits today.

Why, at the end of that long trail, did Mr. Byrnes decide upon still another political career—in the relatively minor role of South Carolina's Governor? Is it true that he is embittered by the break with his former close friend, Mr. Truman, and that he wants a political forum from which he can shoot at the President? Or is it a fact that Mr. Byrnes, having walked down the primrose path close to the inner circle of the New Deal, now views with genuine alarm the impending results of policies which he helped put into effect, and that he wants to be in a position from which he can work with maximum effectiveness against the political trends of the time?

At Washington and Lee University last year he made a speech in which he said he believed there is real danger that the free American of today "will soon be an economic slave pulling an oar in the galley of the state." And in that speech he also discoursed upon the evils of a political system in which each party, in order to win elections, tries to outpromise the other, with no regard for the consequences of fulfilling those promises. In his campaign for the governorship, Mr. Byrnes made no such promises. His was the lofty approach and, toward the end, some of his followers feared that this detachment from the hurly-burly of politics might cost him a majority of the votes. But that did not happen. Mr. Byrnes got better than two-thirds of all the votes cast, and, to this extent, he will be in a strong position when he takes over as Governor. It does not necessarily follow, of course, that he will be able to accomplish much along the lines charted in the Washington and Lee address. But it will be more than mildly interesting to watch what he tries to do, and it is a safe bet that Mr. Truman will be among the most interested spectators.

What's What in Korea?

One week ago today General MacArthur's headquarters announced in a formal communique that the situation of the American ground forces in Korea "is not serious in any way."

An official Army spokesman said at the same time that "our forces now hold a strong defensive position." And at his press conference last Thursday the President declared he was confident the situation will work out all right.

Since those cheery statements, our forces in Korea have met with one reverse after another. From that "strong defensive position" of a week ago they have been driven back of the Kum River. Where the line will be a week from now is something that is not pleasant to think about. After listening to a full report from General Bradley, Chairman Tydings of the Senate Armed Services Committee told reporters on Tuesday: "I don't think things are desperate, but they are very serious and it would be a disservice to our people not to say so."

In the light of this, what possible justification could there have been for the announcement last week that the situation was not serious in any way? In The Star's judgment, as it has said before, the President should tell the people the truth about this business. It has been officially announced that General Bradley gave the Senate committee an account of what has taken place in Korea from the beginning, what is contemplated for the immediate future, and what the plans are to meet certain possible contingencies.

Obviously, much of this touches upon military security and cannot be made public. But it is equally obvious that the substance of the picture can be given to the people without trespassing upon security, and there certainly is no excuse for official announcements that are misleading if not actually false. The people will have to bear the brunt of whatever lies ahead and they should not be kept unnecessarily in ignorance of the facts. It is the President's responsibility to inform them.

Hoarding—Dangerous and Selfish

There is real cause for alarm in the reports, here and elsewhere, of a war-scare rush by housewives and others to stock up on goods that were hard to get during the scarcity days of World War II. The buying upsurge is directed principally at such items as sugar, canned goods, pepper, soap and fats. These commodities are in plentiful supply at present—but serious artificially created shortages could result if the trend continues.

Hoarding is no less dangerous now than it is in wartime. One local retailer aptly described the situation when he said: "All this wild buying plays right into the hands of the Communists." Nothing would serve the purposes of the Russians better than an inflation-producing buying panic in the United States. Prices already have begun to rise on some products, due, it is said, to excessive buying. The cycle could have ominous effects on the national economy. Surely the American people do not want to encourage a return to ration books and price control. Yet, if the cycle were to run its full course, some sort of controls would be inevitable.

Not all the heavy buying is being done by housewives, either, according to a survey made by The Star in the Washington area. One wholesaler said that hotels and eating places have been piling up orders at an extraordinary rate. Government officials are reported to be reluctant to comment on the situation for fear of adding to the buying rush. It is hard to see how a frank statement about the plenitude of food and other products, coupled with a warning of the perils of purchasing beyond normal needs, would aggravate conditions, however.

Green But Not Growing

Vacation-bound neighbors are very conscientious about leaving something for us to remember them by. Sometimes it is a cat whose little way of sharpening his claws on the furniture is not mentioned at the time of transfer. Or it may be a man-eating pekingese, "so small you'd never know he was there"—except for his teeth in your ankle. More often than not, however, these mementoes take the form of much-loved plants with mile-long memoranda as to their care. More African violets needing all but intravenous feedings and psychiatry, more depressed ivy, moribund hydrangeas and listless petunias are being pressed into unwilling hands these days than it is good to think about.

Plants, like all other living things, pine in the absence of familiar faces. Caretakers, with their front-room more like a greenhouse every day if they have been cordial to their neighbors, have several courses open. Some conscientious souls nail the instruction list to the kitchen door, refuse all week-end invitations and go about endlessly among their charges with the teapot serving as watering-can and fork for hoe. Other reluctant horticulturists of the type who never miss an opportunity to kick a blade of grass set about cold-bloodedly to kill the plants with kindness, watering them so fiercely that the roots rot forthwith. When the owners return the damp soil is exhibited as evidence of oversolicitude. A third means is to set all the unwanted greenery on the window sill and trust to wind and weather. Followers of this school of thought find the plants alternately drowned and parched and generally have to replace the whole gallery with 11th-hour purchases from a nearby florist.

Most people who have been through it start in early spring to weed out from their acquaintanceship all lovers of green and growing things bent on making their apartments into unreasonable facsimiles of parks.

North-South Korean Feud Has Deep Roots

By George Kennedy

FIVE years ago the line of the 38th parallel across Korea was chosen as a military zone boundary for the purpose of accepting the surrender of the Japanese military forces on the peninsula. The Russians were to accept the surrender north of the line; the Americans, to the south.

The Koreans are a homogeneous people of one language, and they have had one political aspiration through most of this century: A nationalistic urge for freedom from Japanese domination.

Why are people north of the line so eager to shoot and kill people south of the line, only five years after the line was drawn? This is a puzzling question for the American whose first interest in Korea has been forced by recent headlines and radio bulletins. The Communist indoctrination of the North Koreans—and their undoubted subservience to the Kremlin—obviously is part of the answer. But it obviously can't be the whole answer, either.

A famous arbitrary line was once drawn up in the eastern part of this country, about halfway between the 39th and the 40th parallels. It was called the Mason and Dixon line, after the English surveyors who drew it, and it became a border of deep political differences. But it was a century after the survey for the line was started before opposing armies were marching and counter-marching across it.

Yesterday, the Harvard University Press published a book that goes a long way to answer the Korean puzzle. It is a study entitled "Korea Today," made under the auspices of the Institute of Pacific Relations by George M. McCune. A professor of the University of California, his interest in Korea was not lessened by the fact that he was born in Pyongyang of missionary parents.

He began the work in 1947 and had it almost completed when he died in 1948. His wife, Evelyn McCune, and his assistant, Arthur L. Grey, jr., a graduate economics student at the university who entered Korea at the beginning of the occupation, finished the work. It was scheduled for publication on this date long before the shooting started.

The reader of "Korea Today" learns that there have been long-standing political differences between the north and the south of the peninsula. The 38th parallel just happens to run between peoples of marked difference. Three centuries ago the Korean monarchy was greatly weakened by a struggle between two factions, the Nam-in (Men of the South) and Puk-in (Men of the North). Traces of this struggle "are still evident today with the north-south division of the country," Prof. McCune writes.

"It is a commonplace in Korea," according to the author, "for a 'southerner' to characterize the Northern Korean as uncouth, uneducated, and a troublemaker. The 'northerner,' on the other hand, is often contemptuous of his southern neighbor, whom he believes to be lazy, effete, lacking in ambition and a scheming rascal."

The Russians had a start on the Americans, and Prof. McCune points out how they made the most of it. When Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945, the Russian forces had already landed on the peninsula. On August 25, the Soviet command ordered what it called "The Executive Committee of the Korean People" to take over. The committee immediately expropriated and nationalized Japanese property.

The Russians had Korean Communists with them, in whom they had confidence. One of them, Kim Ilsung, a revolutionist who had operated in Manchuria for a number of years, emerged as the head of a provisional government in February, 1946. Two years later, he became head of a North Korean government set up as a permanent one. He still heads it.

Two weeks after the Russian Army had ostensibly turned the administration of Northern Korea over to Koreans, the Americans landed. The Koreans south of the line had organized a "People's Republic," but it was given the cold shoulder. The Americans wanted to be sure the Korean government was the choice of the people through fair elections. This was difficult to bring about in a people without experience in the democratic process, and there was no immediate success.

In contrast to the North Korean situation (the Russians never set up a military government, thinly veiled as the ultimate authority might have been) the American commanding general, Lieut. Gen. John R. Hodge, had to serve notice two months after the occupation had begun that "military government is is the only government in Southern Korea."

The Southern Koreans had their own term for it. They called it the "government of the intepreters."

The story of how Gen. Hodge and his military administration finally succeeded in setting up a civilian government is one that does credit to Americans sense of responsibility and fair play. But right from the start, there were differences divided by the 38th parallel that were bound to make trouble.

Perhaps the most important of these differences was the one involving that chronic Asian problem, land reform—a problem which has plagued us and supplied grist to the Communist propaganda mills all through the East. The Russians gave the land to the peasants in North Korea, a move we considered too extreme to force upon the south. Prof. McCune's observation on this conflict is both enlightening and prophetic.

"The landlord in North Korea," he writes, "was less powerful than in South Korea, and agrarian reform, though less needed, was easier to put into effect without disrupting the economic and social system.

"From the standpoint of the social character of the two zones of Korea, it appeared that revolutionary Soviet policies of confiscation and socialization might meet little resistence in North Korea, and that American policies of conservatism and moderate reform might be acceptable in South Korea for a short time at least. But it was also obvious that the contrast in social conditions and reform policies between the two zones would ultimately bring about critical difficulties."

Letters to The Star . . .

A pseudonym is permissible only when letter carries correct name and address of writer. Please be brief.

Turtles and Puppy Tails

This is with reference to the fine letter by Mr. Stafford, about the camp children who painted the turtles' shells.

The principle expressed in this letter applies to many other things in nature. Cutting off a puppy's tail, and clipping his ears, are barbarous customs, too. I believe such mutilations are supposed to give a dog a thoroughbred appearance. The tail of an animal is his most artistic feature, and ears come next. What more graceful sight than the slow waving of a feline's tail as it watches its prey? I have even seen a cat's tail bobbed!

And what so lovely sight as the forsythia bushes in their maturity, ushering in the spring—spilled sunshine when left alone. But now the modern custom is to prune forsythia bushes, cropping off their long, towering fronds and branches. It is indeed heartening to know that man cannot reach the sun or moon to mar them.

Lucille Agniel Calmes.

* *

We regret the unfavorable impression made by the picture of a turtle being painted at camp.

Removable water-color paint is used for purposes of identification only. Children are allowed to catch and study a few anmials. These are fed carefully, tenderly treated and in a day or two returned to their habitat.

The theme of our nature study and nature craft, important parts of our camp program, is love and appreciation for the wonders and beauties of the plant and animal world surrounding us.

We wish emphatically to assure all nature lovers that we are not lacking in feeling for the charm of wild life, and that no animal is hurt, injured, or kept in captivity for more than one or two days.

Joseph L. Drew,
Director, Camp Pleasant, Dumfries, Va.

Supply Control Is the Issue

The issue in the milk hearing is not steam sterilization versus chemical sterilization of milk equipment, as the current advertisements of the Maryland-Virginia Milk Producers' Association in The Star and other Washington papers would have you believe. The fundamental issue is the continued maintenance of control over the supply of milk that can be sold in the District of Columbia. If the association is successful in obtaining a decision from the District Commissioners, ruling that chemical sterilization of milk equipment does not meet District Sanitary requirements, it will have automatically eliminated the competition of producers from this area and other areas using chemical sterilization equipment.

Every one wants pure, safe milk, but since control of supplies and not sanitation is the principal issue, I see no reason why consumers would want to join with the association in maintaining an artificial tariff wall around the Washington milk shed for the express purpose of limiting milk supplies, thereby enhancing prices.

Consumer.

Kind Words

It was with much interest that I read in the Sunday Star of July 2 of the results of the survey recently conducted among top United States Government officials in the Nation's Capital, with a view to ascertaining their newspaper-reading habits and preferences.

As expected, The Star came off with top honors. Heartiest congratulations are here extended to The Star on the splendid record achieved.

The Star is the ablest, the finest and the best newspaper in Washington. It is a newspaper of quality and of untarnished reputation.

C. A. L.

Indian Complaint

I would like to express my mind about an incident which occurred recently.

Two of my girl friends purchased tickets at the Metropolitan Theater. As they were giving their tickets to the ticket collector, another man came up and took one of the girls' tickets and said she couldn't go in. Without any reason or explanation, he forbade her admittance.

Now this girl was a little darker than the other, but they were both American Indians. They told this man their race, thinking they were mistaken as another. He said the lighter of the two girls could go in the theater, but refunded the other's money and still refused her admittance.

What is this world coming to when they won't let a tax-paying American Indian enjoy a little entertainment in a movie house? Incidentally, this same incident occurred at the Pix Theater, but to a different set of Indian girls. I thought this was America, but if these two managers can be allowed to do such things for no rhyme or reason, it leaves a doubt in my mind.

Freda Cromwell.

Another 'Segregation' View

"It is far better to remain silent and be considered a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." What a pity it is that a certain pseudo-theologian, who so fluently paraphrased the Book of Genesis to coincide with his own reasoning, has either never seen this parable, or has been so blinded by an innate feeling of superiority based on his delusion of difference in specie that he still wrote the letter "Segregation," which appeared in the July 3 issue of this column.

Upon examining the natural causes of segrgeation as set forth by E. W. L. one readily discerns the fact that his argument lacks factual foundation, biologically or theologically.

Had E. W. L. bothered to read further in the Book of Genesis, before his transcription, I am sure that he would have noted the fact that God made each of the animals and fish after its own type, but created man in His own image. I don't recall having read that a Caucasian Adam, a Mongolian Adam and a Negroid Adam were created.

According to the latest anthropological and archeological discoveries, it is assumed that the Garden of Eden lay somewhere in the region of the Mediterranean Sea. Should one trace the lineage of the peoples inhabiting this locality, I am sure that no trace of blue-eyed blonds would be found among the aborigines.

I agree with E. W. L. that there has been a gradual change in human types, as indicated in the morphological forms of living man; this change, however, has come down through the ages from prehistoric man and is not prevalent among contemporary men. In the course of his development, the body of man has undergone a series of modifications which still in part find expression in his ontogeny. The best illustration of these changes is indicated by the forms of organs which are undergoing reduction.

But, in the consideration of race, we must remember that groups impressing us as a conglomerate of different conceptualized types are all of a common descent.

Where the external differences are marked, man has established, as a matter of social convenience, what he calls race, and upon this external classification has erected an edifice in which he houses animosity, envy and hatred—paraded under the names of "prejudice" and "segregation."

T. H. McN.

This and That . . .

By Charles E. Tracewell

It is exactly one hundred years since the English sparrow was brought to the United States.

Since then he has done pretty well for himself, his mate, his children, his cousins and his aunts.

Once called gamin, hoodlum, tramp, today he is a nuisance to some, friend to others.

It was in the autumn of 1850 that eight pairs of sparrows were brought to Brooklyn, where they were kept in cages until spring, and then liberated.

The birds were brought over to see what they could do against various insect pests.

* *

Many importations were made, and it is from all of these, not just from the original eight, that our house sparrows today came.

At one time exactly the same charges were leveled against them as now against the starling: That they were filthy in habits, especially as groups; that they clogged up gutters and downspouts with nesting material, and that they drove away our native birds.

Recent attacks on the starlings have drawn off the onslaughts on the sparrows. Besides, the English sparrows have flown to the suburban areas and no longer constitute a nuisance to the downtown areas of our great cities.

In the suburbs they are more or less lost in the greater number of birds. There they meet and mingle with the native sparrows, including the song sparrow, white-throated sparrow and white-crowned sparrow, as well as the vesper, tree and chipping sparrows.

In the old days in Washington, the downtown streets were filled with sparrows.

Now they come to suburban feeding stations.

Now and then a householder becomes irate over them, but most persons tolerate them, and some even welcome them. It is not hard to see why.

Actually, this is a picturesque creature, and an interesting one, too, provided the watcher has the mind to see. Not every observer has. It is amazing how people build up prejudices. In fact, it seems as if prejudice is something born in some people. Others build it up. Like discrimination, it is not something unknown to human kind, but a veritable part of many, spurred on by the emotions, and sometimes by the mind.

Prejudice against English sparrows leads to attempts to trap them, but often in so doing the native sparrows are trapped and killed, too.

* *

The best way to handle the sparrow problem is to let them alone, we believe.

They belong to the same great group that includes the redbird and many another favorite. They eat amicably with them, and do not chase them away. Our native species are not such Milquetoasts as some would have us believe. They are well able to take care of themselves.

The common sparrows grow fat and sleek in the suburbs, and are as clean as any bird. The "filthy" habits of which the professional bird people made such a pow-wow in the old days have given way to cleaner habits since they are not so crowded.

Actually today many householders regard their English sparrows as a distinct part of the bird feeding scene. They become interested in the belligerent males with the dark spot beneath the chin, and in the beautiful little gray females.

* *

Such bird lovers merely grin when they read in one of the older books that "the English sparrow among birds, like the rat among mammals, is cunning, destructive and filthy."

The bird is not that bad, surely. Some of its friends claim for it a royal descent from the weaver birds. They say it is not a sparrow at all, that it may eat grain and fruit but destroys so many insects inimical to man that the scale is heavily weighted in its favor.

Testifying to the interest in this hardy, persistent and capable species, many persons want to know about the absence of "their sparrows," as they come to look upon them, from their own feeding stations.

This is due in most cases to the presence of natural foods in all directions, and the desire on the part of the older sparrows to train their numerous babies in flight and general management. With the coming of autumn they will return, since they seem to have a sort of homecoming instinct. If one does not feed birds in the summer, it is a good idea to put out food with the return of the first real fall days, to welcome home, among others, the saucy little house sparrows.

The Political Mill

States' Righters Slapped In Defeat of Thurmond

But Nomination of Byrnes Is Sad News to Fair Dealers

By Gould Lincoln

The democratic States' Rights party of 1948, created by Southern Democrats in an effort to prevent the election of President Truman, took a clip on the jaw in the defeat of Gov. J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina in his effort to win the senatorial nomination over incumbent Senator Olin D. Johnston. Administration circles hailed the result of the primary. Had Gov. Thurmond been chosen to come to Washington and the Senate, it would have been a bitter pill. He was the States' Rights candidate for President two years ago and gathered in 39 electoral votes.

However, the victory of Senator Johnston does not mean a slackening of the opposition to the Truman civil rights program in the South, and in South Carolina particularly. Senator Johnston's first official act, after learning of his victory in the primary, was to vote in the Senate against invoking cloture on a motion to take up the FEPC bill.

In his campaign for renomination, Senator Johnston denounced the whole civil rights program and boasted of what he had done in the Senate to prevent its adoption. He belittled President Truman, too, on occasion. The Administration's choice, in this senatorial race, therefore, was very much like that of the Negro voters in South Carolina—as between Messrs. Thurmond and Johnston, they took Senator Johnston as the lesser of two evils. The Administration preferred him, naturally, since he had come out for the so-called national Democratic party—as distinguished from the States' Righters.

Second Vote on Cloture.

The vote in the Senate on FEPC cloture—the second during the present session, stood 55 for cloture and 33 against. Only by the imposition of cloture does it appear possible to break a Southern filibuster against the anti-segregation bill. Under the amended rules of the Senate, a "constitutional two-thirds" of the Senate, or 64 Senators, must actually vote to impose cloture. The supporters of the motion lacked the votes of nine Senators. There seems no prospect of obtaining these votes at the present session of Congress, and FEPC will go into the election next fall.

The Administration is seeking to place the blame for the failure of cloture on 6 Republican Senators who voted "no" on the motion made by Democratic Leader Scott Lucas. The six joined 27 Democratic Senators in beating down the motion. On the other hand, 33 Republicans voted for cloture and were joined by 22 Democrats. As between political parties, the G. O. P. far surpassed the Democratic party in support of FEPC.

No Reason to Cheer.

If the Administration feels encouraged over the defeat of Gov. Thurmond, it has no reason to cheer the nomination of James F. Byrnes for Governor of South Carolina. Mr. Byrnes, former Secretary of State, is coming back into public life as a critic of the Truman domestic program, much of which Mr. Byrnes considers socialistic. In fact, Mr. Byrnes projected himself again into public life for the purpose of opposing the Fair Dealers. When he announced his intention of running for Governor, the Korean war was not dreamed of. As Governor, Mr. Byrnes will do all in his power to aid the war effort. But he will be a potent voice against compulsory national health insurance, the Brannan plan and other features of the President's program. It's no secret the Administration would have given a long cheer had the South Carolinians turned Mr. Byrnes down. The overwhelming vote accorded him is like turning a knife in a wound.

The White House guard is counting on renominating Mr. Truman in 1952. The South will, it is expected, again oppose Mr. Truman in the Democratic national convention. Mr. Byrnes will set the pace for the South Carolina delegation, and the position of great prominence he has held in national party affairs will give substance to any revolt against a Truman renomination.

Questions and Answers

The Star's readers can get the answer to any question of fact by either writing The Evening Star Information Bureau, 1200 I street N.W., Washington 5, D. C., and inclosing 3 cents return postage, or by telephoning ST. 5000, Extension 358.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE

Q. How many years does it take a peach tree to bear when grown from seed?—R. D.

A. The Department of Agriculture says that aside from the raising of new varieties, the principal interest in fruit-tree seedlings is their use as roots in the propagation of varieties by grafting and budding. The fruit from seedling trees is of great variety and likely to be of inferior quality. However, under generally good environment for fruiting, the time required from seed to the apple is 6 to 7 years, and for peaches and plums, 3 to 4 years.

Q. Does the song "Sweet Adeline" have reference to a real person?—D. B. Y.

A. The name was originally "Rosalie" and it is said that "Adeline" was suggested to the author when he happened to see a billboard announcing Adelina Patti, the noted opera singer. The song was published in 1903. A postal clerk named Richard Gerard wrote the words and the music is by Harry Armstrong.

Storm at Midnight

This is the consummation of the wind and darkness,
A tide of lonely beauty floods the slashing rain,
A ragged whip of light has slit the veil of heaven,
Crashing the mind to blindness, and again, again!
Hold now this fury for a moment's startled breathing,
The night's black garment is rag of shredded fleece,
Steady, O restless wind! Oh, answer, answer darkness!
This is the moment for the burdened heart's release.
The darkness stirs, the wakened earth stirs into motion,
Roused into rapture by the wind and urgent rain,
The skies flash open through the ghostly cloud's grey weeping,
A moment's brightness, then the clouds draw closed again.
The storm is done; wind and the ravished darkness sleeping,
Spent, and at peace.

HELEN ROWE HENZE.