

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: Friday, July 16, 1965

A new book on former South Carolina governor and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, written by Dr. George F. Curry, Professor of History at New College, has just been published.

Titled, "James F. Byrnes: Secretary of State," it was published by Cooper Square and will be available for general distribution in September.

The book is a full length study of the diplomacy of President Truman's Secretary of State during the immediate postwar period, July 1945 to January 1948. At this time the uneasy wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and the West quickly came under considerable strain and the United States, after extensive and generally fruitless attempts to allay Soviet suspicion and hostility, developed the tough line which culminated in the great Cold War of the late forties and fifties.

Byrnes, the book points out, negotiated extensively with Molotov and Stalin. Professor Curry's narrative, based on exclusive official records, gives the first details in print of many of his attempts to find common cause with the Russian leadership.

Among the interesting features of the book is the inside story of the hassle within the Truman administration between the school of Henry Wallace, who wished to continue a soft line with the Soviets, and Byrnes, who was determined that a more realistic policy be followed.

Dr. George Curry - publishes - Page 2

Dr. Curry also gives fresh insights into the now famous quarrel between President Truman and his former friend, Byrnes. He concludes this falling-out was not based on any differences over foreign policy in the years of Byrnes' secretaryship, but on their divergent views, after Byrnes' resignation, of the welfare state aspects of the Truman administration.

In 1957 and 1958 Dr. Curry assisted Governor Byrnes in the preparation of his memoirs. At that time he was Professor of History at the University of South Carolina.