

Everyone must have been sorry to hear yesterday afternoon of Mrs. Eisenhower's operation and since she has endeared herself to many people there will be good wishes flowing to her from all over the country which one hopes will ~~alleviate~~ *bring her* ~~her~~ *her* time in the hospital and help her to recover *quickly*.

I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. A. Stevenson for a short time yesterday afternoon, just after he had faced a mammoth press conference. It is rather hard, I think, to be asked so many questions about ^{*Situation in U.S.*} domestic questions ~~xxx~~ on the first day one is back in one's own country. You ~~are~~ are hardly allowed to catch your breath before you are asked about things you have only seen reported in foreign papers which cannot give you as wide a coverage as we have here and therefore it is extremely difficult to be fully prepared to answer. I agreed entirely, however, with what Mr. S. said on the civil rights bill. He would prefer to have even the little that will come with this bill than to have nothing. He has been in areas of the world where he has had the opportunity to see the change even in the last 2 years that is coming about among people, for instance in central Africa. Mr. Stevenson knows, therefore, how important what we do here is for our position in areas of the world where people want freedom, respect as human beings, and a chance to grow. Little as this bill seems to do, it will at least give us some chance of growing in this country. I think the Southern senators led by Sen. *Thompson* and Sen. Russell have won a costly victory because this

Photo

Legation

Thompson

fight for civil rights is not going to stop, if the people of Africa are on the move, the people of the US are also on the move. Our people are not going to be satisfied with crumbs such as this civil rights bill gives them. It will bring us no peace, but it is better to pass it and see what we can achieve even with this slight change. I hear from Washington, however, that the Republicans in all probability will just let it lie over and do nothing, and then they will try to use it as a ^{of the} next campaign issue. Mr. Nixon and Mr. Johnson both are trying to Boil the people. -Both colored people and white people. It will be interesting to see how far they both succeed.

The other evening at Hyde Park I saw at our H.P. Playhouse the world premiere of a play by Orin Boston called "Fever for Life" in which Faye Bainter stars. It needs some changes but on the whole I found it an interesting evening and with good direction I think it will prove interesting on Broadway. I thought the acting was ^{really} good.