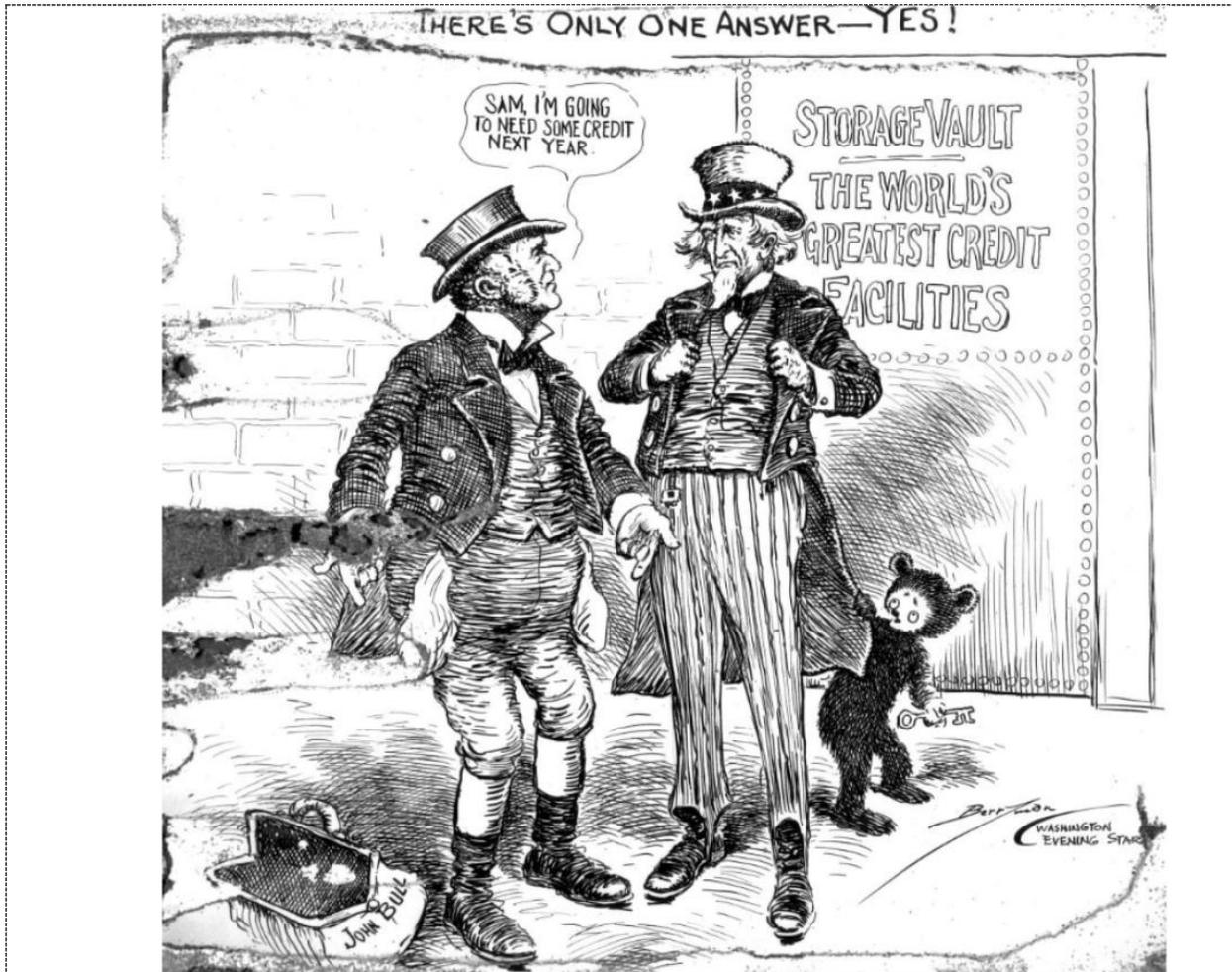


# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



November 26, 1940

NAID 6012222

There's only One Answer – Yes!

By late 1940, Great Britain was struggling to finance the war against Germany. In this cartoon, John Bull, representing Britain, gestures toward the empty bag at his feet and beseeches Uncle Sam for a loan. Sam stands in front of a locked vault of "The World's Greatest Credit Facilities": America's collective wealth. That wealth was in effect locked up by several laws, including the Debt Default Act of 1934 and the Neutrality Acts of the 1930s, which restricted U.S. aid in order to keep the U.S. out of conflicts abroad. One of these acts allowed the U.S. to supply arms to the allies but only on a "cash-and-carry" basis, which did cash-strapped Britain little good. Should the U.S. find a way to extend credit to Great Britain? The Teddy Bear urges Uncle Sam to open the vault. Ultimately, the "key" was a lend-lease program that allowed the president to loan military and other supplies to other countries if doing so was essential to U.S. national security.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



May 7, 1942

NAID 6012265

## Low Tide Now

World War II was a war of expansion on two fronts: one in Europe, one in the Pacific. After Japan bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, the U.S. declared war on Japan. By the time Clifford Berryman drew this cartoon, the U.S. had suffered additional major defeats in the Pacific. In particular, combined American-Filipino forces struggled to resist Japanese expansion into the Philippine Islands, which were at the time an American territory. In January of 1942, Japan took the Philippine capital of Manila; in April, the Bataan Peninsula fell; and on May 6, the day before this cartoon appeared, all American-Filipino forces surrendered to the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor Island. Here, a racially stereotyped Japanese soldier uses his bayonet to write his victories in the sand, oblivious to the incoming tide of “America’s Might” about to overtake him. This was wishful thinking on Berryman’s part, and yet his wish came true: a month later, the U.S. won the Battle of Midway, putting Japan on the defensive for the rest of the war.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



June 7, 1944

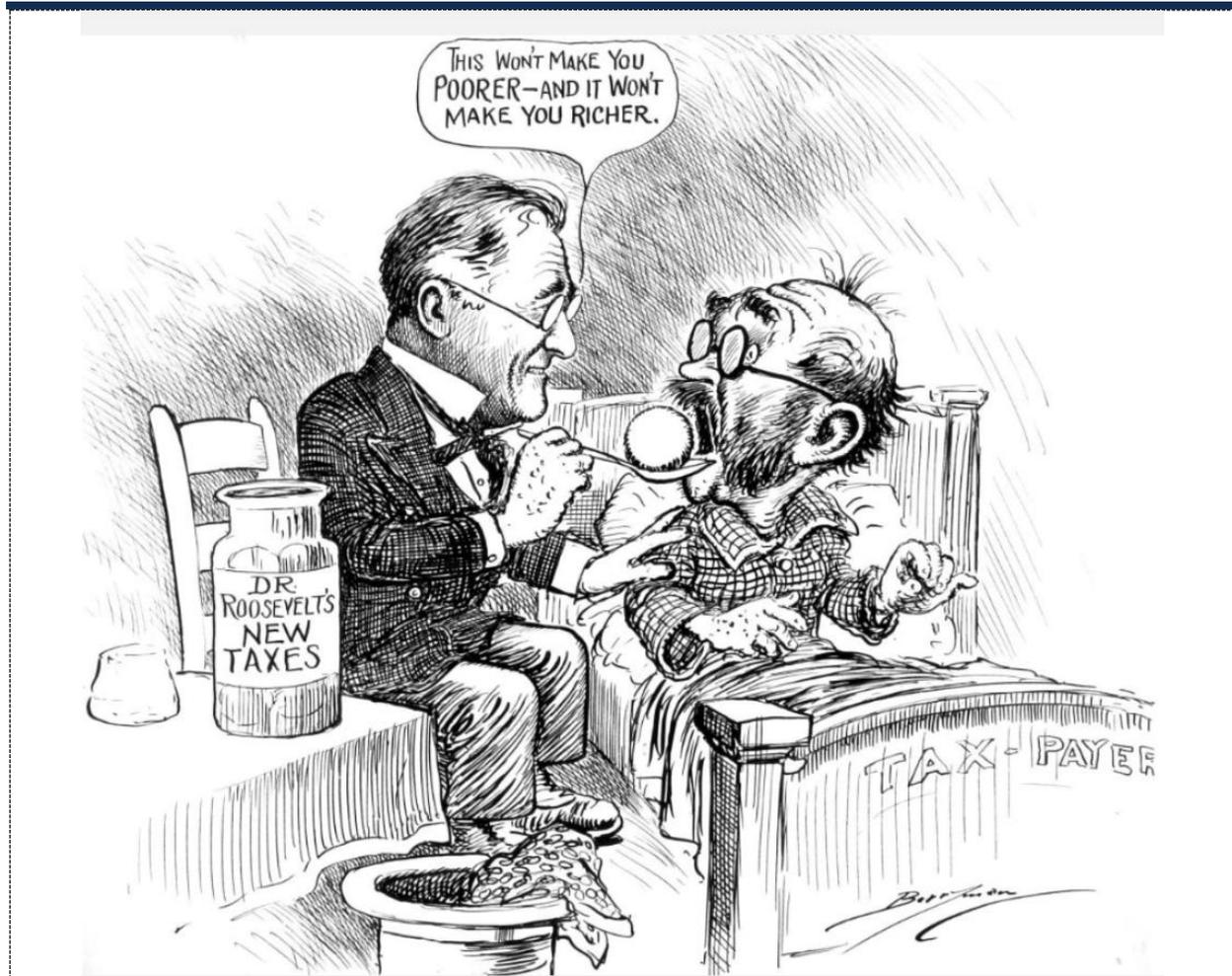
NAID 5743133

Lafayette We are Here - Again

On June 6, 1944, known as D-Day, the Allied forces landed on the beaches of northern France, launching the Battle of Normandy, which would ultimately liberate Western Europe from Nazi Germany. This cartoon appeared a day later. Jim Berryman had used the phrase "Lafayette, we are here" in an earlier cartoon, echoing a famous quotation. Commonly attributed to General John J. Pershing, the commander of U.S. forces in Europe in World War I, the phrase was actually first spoken by Pershing's aide, Colonel Charles E. Stanton, in a July 4, 1917, speech at the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette in Paris. A French nobleman and military general, Lafayette had fought on the American side during the Revolutionary War. Stanton's 1917 speech honored Lafayette and underscored America's commitment to helping France during World War I. Here, Berryman refers to that long history, as the U.S. once more rushes to help France, its oldest ally, on D-Day.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



May 4, 1941

NAID 6012238

## The Sugar-Coated Pills

In late 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt declared the U.S. the “arsenal of democracy,” promising to supply the Allies with the tools they needed to fight Nazi Germany. To do so, industry would have to produce a huge number of ships, planes, tanks, ammunition, and other war goods. How would the U.S. government raise the money to pay manufacturers to do all this? The answer was to raise taxes and sell war bonds (through which the government in effect borrowed money from citizens). In his State of the Union address to Congress in early 1941, Roosevelt called for higher taxes to fund defense production, reassuring legislators that the American people would “put patriotism ahead of pocketbooks.” Roosevelt’s efforts to sugarcoat the issue in idealistic terms and his reassurance that the tax burden would be shared fairly did not convince everybody. Clifford Berryman’s cartoon depicts new taxes as a big pill for the tax-payer to swallow.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



March 12, 1942

NAID 601225

## Scorch the Comforts, Uncle

Public participation in World War II involved military service, paying taxes, and sacrificing consumer goods. The Teddy Bear waves an announcement that U.S. allies had adopted a “scorched-earth” policy, which in military terms refers to the destruction of all property (like tanks, ammunition, or food stores) of possible use to an advancing enemy. In Britain, scorch can also mean cut or slash. Here, Teddy calls for the U.S. (represented by Uncle Sam) to do its part by cutting out all luxuries that used raw materials or production plants essential for the war effort. In early 1942, sugar and tires were already being rationed, and Americans were bracing to make do without other comforts, as factories turned to the production of war goods rather than “frills” (goods that are nice but not essential). At the same time, government leaders and industry managers were trying to “scorch” all waste at those factories and make them more efficient.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



May 22, 1943

NAID 6012287

## Rising Prices

During World War II, manufacturers concentrated on producing war goods, which made consumer goods increasingly scarce. That scarcity drove prices upward, a phenomenon called inflation. To address the problem, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Office of Price Administration. The O.P.A. controlled rents, limited prices, and managed the rationing of scarce goods (including tires, gasoline, fuel oil, and many foods). However, the O.P.A. was far from perfect. Several days before this cartoon was published, a congressional committee called on the O.P.A. to hire better personnel and improve its food rationing system. The O.P.A.'s rent controls were also being scrutinized. In this cartoon, Clifford Berryman alludes to the fable The Three Little Pigs. The big bad wolf of rising prices is threatening to blow down the house of sticks that is the O.P.A. Leaning out the window is that organization's leader, Prentiss Brown.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

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February 9, 1945

NAID 6012295

## The World Waits at Yalta

In February, 1945, as the war in Europe neared its end, the leaders of the major Allied Powers (the U.S., Great Britain, and the Soviet Union) held a series of meetings in the Soviet city of Yalta. “The Big Three” (President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin) demonstrated their unity and discussed the reorganization of Europe after the war. Each leader had particular strategic goals. Stalin, for example, was determined to retain influence in Eastern Europe. One important outcome of the Yalta Conference was that Stalin promised to declare war on Japan once Germany surrendered. In addition, the Allies agreed to create an international peacekeeping organization, an intention realized after the war with the founding of the United Nations. In this cartoon, Clifford Berryman depicts a war-weary world anxiously listening in on the Yalta talks.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



August 17, 1945

NAID 6012312

Fill 'er Up!

On August 15, 1945, Japan announced its surrender, bringing World War II to a close. In this cartoon, published two days later, Clifford Berryman captures the pent-up desires of the American people for consumer goods and normal life. John Q. Public (the average citizen) asks Uncle Sam to fill his tank with all the “goods” that had been either rationed or in short supply. The postwar years saw a boom in the production and consumption of clothes, cars, household appliances, and more. Returning veterans started to have families and needed homes. The G.I. Bill, a package of government benefits to help veterans transition to civilian life, included home loans, which spurred home-buying and construction. After a decade of economic depression and five years of all-out war, Americans were eager to enjoy the benefits of a consumer-focused economy. The supply of goods, the cost of living, and access to housing would become thorny political issues in the post-war era..

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



November 19, 1947

NAID 5743141

## One at a Time?

As the Soviet Union expanded its influence after World War II, American leaders grew concerned about Soviet power and the spread of communism. In a speech to Congress in March of 1947, President Harry Truman declared that America would provide political, economic, and military assistance to any democratic nation under internal or external threat. Later known as the Truman Doctrine, this statement signaled the U.S. government's new willingness to become involved in far-flung conflicts. But Truman had to convince the American people of the urgent need to fight communism abroad at a time when many were more concerned about inflation at home. After the war, demand for goods outstripped supply, prices rose, and Americans discovered that their dollars did not go as far as they once had. In this cartoon, President Truman urges "J. Public" (the American people) to tackle both problems at once

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



May 20, 1948

NAID 6012422

What's Sauce for the Goose is Sauce for the Gander

The postwar era saw rising anxiety about the spread of communism. This cartoon was published on the day the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Mundt-Nixon Bill, which called for communists to register with the government. The bill proposed fines and jail sentences for activities deemed "subversive." It also would have regulated the political activities of communists. Richard Nixon, then a member of the House, urged the Senate to vote for the bill. Those opposed to the bill argued that it aimed to outlaw the Communist Party itself and violated the Constitution by limiting political activity. In the end, the bill died in the Senate. However, similar legislation, the McCarran Internal Security Act, passed two years later.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



February 3, 1953

NAID 5743173

## It's All Yours

In 1949, China's non-communist Nationalist Party was forced out of mainland China by the communist regime. The Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-Shek, retreated to the island of Taiwan (also called Formosa). There they made plans to return to power on the mainland. The U.S. provided some equipment and kept a naval fleet in the strait between Taiwan and the mainland to prevent attacks from either side. The day before this cartoon was published, however, President Dwight D. Eisenhower removed the naval fleet. He seemed to be opening the way for Chiang to attack but did not provide additional support for the offensive. Chiang's limited forces never posed any serious threat to communist China. Nevertheless, this incident added to the list of conflicts that complicated the relationship between the U.S. and communist China.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



February 20, 1955

NAID 5743199

Uncle Sam: "Same Line I Fell For 10 Years Ago"

Here Uncle Sam forges a sword and reads about the Soviets' proposal for an international arms treaty. This cartoon calls to mind a biblical passage about making swords (weapons of war) into plowshares (instruments of peaceful agricultural labor), but Sam seems reluctant to make the switch. The caption refers to the betrayal the U.S. experienced when the Soviets seized Eastern Europe after World War II. (Jim Berryman's audience might also be reminded of the misguided optimism of the Treaty of Versailles, which concluded World War I but failed to end global war, as well as misplaced trust in the arms limitation agreements that left the U.S. unprepared for World War II.) This latest proposal, calling for the destruction of all atomic and hydrogen bombs, was announced three days before a scheduled United Nations disarmament conference. Meanwhile, communist powers threatened U.S. allies in Thailand and Taiwan. No wonder Sam hesitates.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



December 7, /1956

NAID 5743239

This Wouldn't Stand Inspection!

In October of 1956, the people of Hungary revolted against their Soviet-controlled government. For a brief time, it seemed as if the Hungarian Revolution might succeed. Soviet troops withdrew, and the Hungarian government announced its intent to quit the Warsaw Pact (the defensive alliance set up by the Soviet Union). Then the Soviets reasserted control. On November 4, they launched a surprise attack, crushed the revolution, and set up a pro-Soviet government that cracked down on all dissent. On December 4, tens of thousands of Hungarian women marched in protest, bravely confronting tanks and military leaders. This cartoon was published three days later. Its caption may refer to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1955 "open skies" proposal, which attempted to make surveillance from the air part of an arms limitation agreement with the Soviets (they rejected the plan).

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



May 6, 1957

NAID 5743241

## Backing it Up

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was a multinational military alliance formed in 1949 to deter Soviet attacks on Western Europe. In 1952, two major NATO partners, Britain and France, reduced their commitment of troops. NATO's Secretary General, Lord Ismay, advocated using nuclear weapons to compensate for these reduced troop levels. But the smaller countries in NATO believed that reliance on the extreme nuclear option would actually weaken the alliance's ability to stop Soviet meddling and other more limited attacks. The U.S. reassured its allies that it would maintain both its troop levels and its nuclear strength.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



June 22, 1957

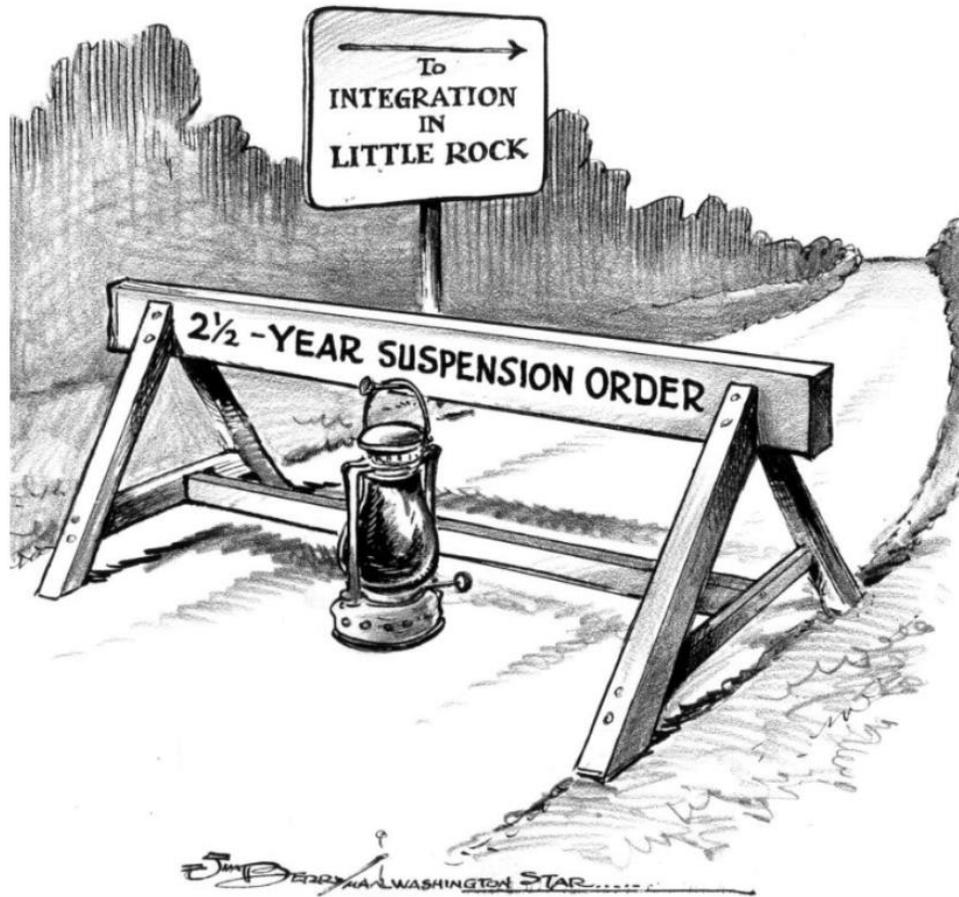
NAID 5743243

The Place is Full of Simon Legrees!

Four days before this cartoon appeared, a major civil rights bill passed in the U.S. House of Representatives despite strong Southern opposition. The bill next had to win the approval of the U.S. Senate. Supporters of the bill feared that the Senate Judiciary Committee, charged with evaluating the bill, would avoid taking action on it. So a pair of senators adopted the unusual strategy of bypassing the committee's review altogether and taking the bill directly to the Senate floor for debate. Jim Berryman captures the bill's escape from certain legislative death in committee by alluding to a daring escape in Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. (Simon Legree, mentioned in the cartoon's caption, was a cruel to enslaved people in the book.)

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



June 24, 1958

NAID 5743262

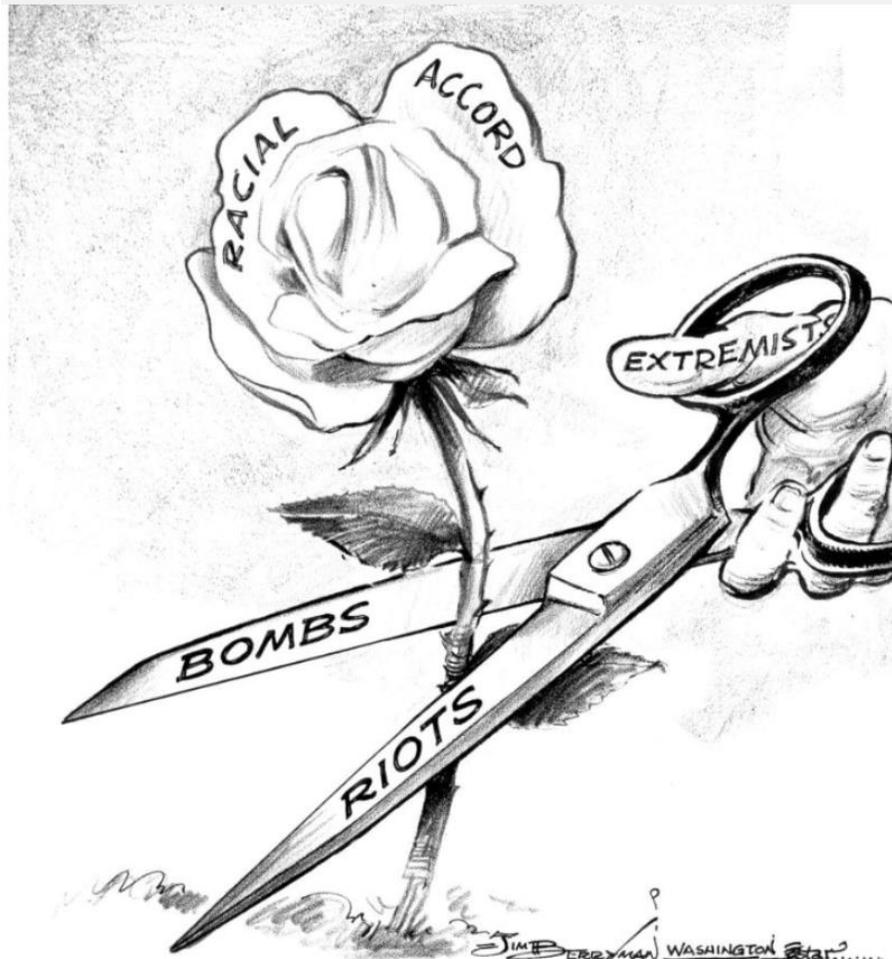
Roadblock...Or Repair Work Ahead?

In February of 1958—almost four years after *Brown v. Board of Education* deemed school segregation unconstitutional, and months after President Eisenhower sent federal troops to enforce desegregation in Little Rock—the Little Rock school district asked a federal court to allow a delay in integration. The result was the roadblock referred to in this cartoon: Judge Harry J. Lemley ruled that Little Rock could suspend integration until January of 1961. Southern state officials greeted this order as a sign of dwindling federal interest in racial equality. Northern members of Congress denounced the ruling. New York Representative Adam Clayton Powell called it “a tragic defeat for democracy.” It turned out to be a temporary defeat. Two months later, a federal appeals court reversed Lemley’s decision. In September, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed and ordered Little Rock to proceed with integration.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



May 14, 1963

NAID 5743297

## *A Flower Tries To Grow in Birmingham*

Mass protests against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, during April and May of 1963 played a pivotal role in civil rights history. Thousands participated in boycotts, restaurant sit-ins, demonstrations, and other nonviolent actions orchestrated by a coalition of civil rights organizations and their leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr. City authorities, led by Commissioner Eugene “Bull” Connor, struck back with fire hoses, police dogs, and mass arrests. After his arrest in April, King wrote his famous “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” Violence against the protesters, many of whom were children, was widely televised, inspiring an outpouring of public sympathy and support for civil rights legislation. An accord ending segregation in Birmingham was reached on May 10. But segregationist bombings right afterwards shattered the fragile peace. Here Jim Berryman expresses his dismay at the new violence.

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# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



All Set For A Super-Secret Session In Washington

1950 Pulitzer Prize Cartoon

By Jim Berryman

The Washington Star

July 23, 1949

NAID 5743145

All Set for a Super-Secret Session in Washington

Jim Berryman drew this cartoon in response to an ongoing congressional investigation into corruption. Less than two years later, hearings held on a different matter by the Senate Special Committee on Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce would become the first televised congressional hearings to draw large audiences. Famous mobsters testified, and Americans were glued to their TV sets. In Berryman's cartoon, TV cameras and radio station microphones crowd up to the long table and high-backed chairs typical of a congressional committee meeting, while a typewriter and notepad (the tools of print journalism) hang back at a respectful distance. Berryman's Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoon captures the moment when TV was about to transform mass communication. The cartoon also conveys the anxiety some Americans felt about the impact of new media on government and politics.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



September 21, 1957

NAID 5743250

A Fellow Just Isn't Safe ANYWHERE Anymore

During the Cold War, the arms race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union spurred the development of new and more powerful nuclear weapons. Two days before this cartoon appeared, the U.S. carried out its first fully-contained, underground, atomic bomb test. Until then, the U.S. had been testing nuclear weapons on land, in the sea, and in the air, but these explosions released harmful radioactive particles into the atmosphere. Underground testing was safer because it kept harmful material contained (though the area around the chamber would be radioactive for a long time). Jim Berryman's cartoon shows the devil bewildered, bruised, and thrown off his feet by an unexpected blast in his underworld home, but soon this would become the norm. This 1957 explosion in the Nevada desert became the model for other underground tests. In 1963, the U.S., the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, pledging to conduct all nuclear tests underground.

# Reviewing Major Topics in U.S. History from 1940 – 1963 with Political Cartoons

Center for Legislative Archives



October 12, /1958

NAID 5743276

*Whew!*

In the context of the Cold War and the arms race, technological success was considered essential to national security and prestige. Scientific progress was also seen as an indicator of the superiority of one political ideology over another. For all these reasons, Americans were eager to best other countries (especially Soviet Union) in new technological feats. The day before this cartoon was published, the U.S. launched a rocket carrying a lunar probe, Pioneer I. Although the probe did not escape the earth's atmosphere and orbit the moon as planned, its launch was considered a success. Pioneer I gathered scientific data and demonstrated that the U.S. was holding its own in the space race. In Jim Berryman's cartoon, a relieved Uncle Sam sifts through news articles announcing a string of technological "firsts": Great Britain's initiation of regular passenger jet travel in 1952; Soviet Union's launching of the first earth satellite, Sputnik, in 1957; and, finally, America's triumphant rocket launch.