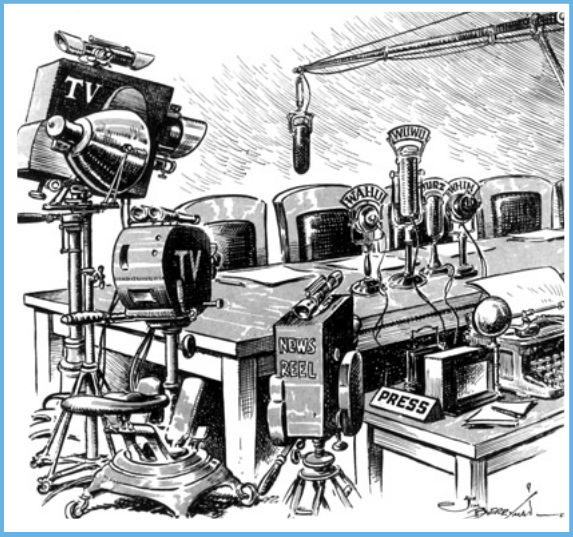
NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

A VISUAL HISTORY

1940–1963 : Political Cartoons by Clifford Berryman and Jim Berryman



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

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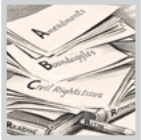

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INTRODUCTION

A Visual History, 1940–1963 : Political Cartoons by Clifford Berryman and Jim Berryman presents 70 political cartoons that invite students to explore American history from the early years of World War II to the civil rights movement. These images, by father-and-son cartoonists Clifford Berryman and Jim Berryman, highlight many significant topics, including WWII and its impact, the Cold War, the space race, the nuclear arms race, and the struggle for school desegregation. This eBook presents the artists' perspectives on the events, people, and institutions that shaped this tumultuous era of American history.

Clifford Berryman had a remarkably long and productive career. From 1896 to 1949, his cartoons were featured on the front pages of leading Washington, D.C., daily newspapers – first the *Washington Post* and then the *Evening Star*. His son, Jim, began drawing cartoons for the sports page of the *Evening Star* in 1939. He transitioned to the editorial page and then took over as the paper's chief cartoonist after his father died. The *Evening Star* featured Jim's cartoons almost daily until his retirement in 1964.

The Berrymans are remembered as two of America's greatest political cartoonists, artists whose thought-provoking illustrations spoke to a broad public over many decades. This eBook's selection of cartoons promises to engage today's visually-oriented students and expand their understanding of history while developing their ability to investigate images. Because each cartoon was published as events were unfolding, each is a primary source that invites students to experience the kind of detective work historians do.

At first glance, some of the Berryman cartoons might seem straightforward, but take a long second look: details in the drawings invite in-depth analysis and discussion. By learning to decode the cartoons, students will develop their visual literacy and hone the critical thinking skills crucial to academic success and participation in civic life.

1

WORLD WAR II

America Joins a Global Conflict, 1940 – 1945

After World War I, Americans hoped they would never again see such large-scale war. They differed, however, on how to ensure lasting peace. Some Americans embraced the idea of an international dispute-resolution body (like the League of Nations, proposed by President Woodrow Wilson). But other Americans thought it best to avoid involvement with foreign countries, and the U.S. never joined the League. In the 1930s, the rise of the Nazi Party and Adolf Hitler in economically and politically troubled Germany gradually drew the world into a war even more devastating and widespread than World War I. At first, the U.S tried to stay out of the conflict, but the continuing territorial expansion of Nazi Germany and the other Axis Powers, plus the desperate need of the Allied Powers fighting against them, made U.S. involvement increasingly necessary. When imperialist Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. joined the Allies in what had become a war of two fronts: one in Europe and one in the Pacific. By its end in 1945, World War II had cost over a hundred million lives. In addition to soldiers, many civilian lives were lost, including six million Jews killed in the Holocaust and hundreds of thousands of Japanese killed by U.S. atomic bombs. In the wake of this deadliest war of all time, Americans increasingly favored international cooperation. The Berryman cartoons reflect this devastating chapter of history.

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 1 Chorus: But Adolf! What about that Other Nice Piece?

November 15, 1940. In 1940, only the expanse of oceans separated the Americas from attack by Nazi Germany and its allies.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743121

World War II, 1940–45

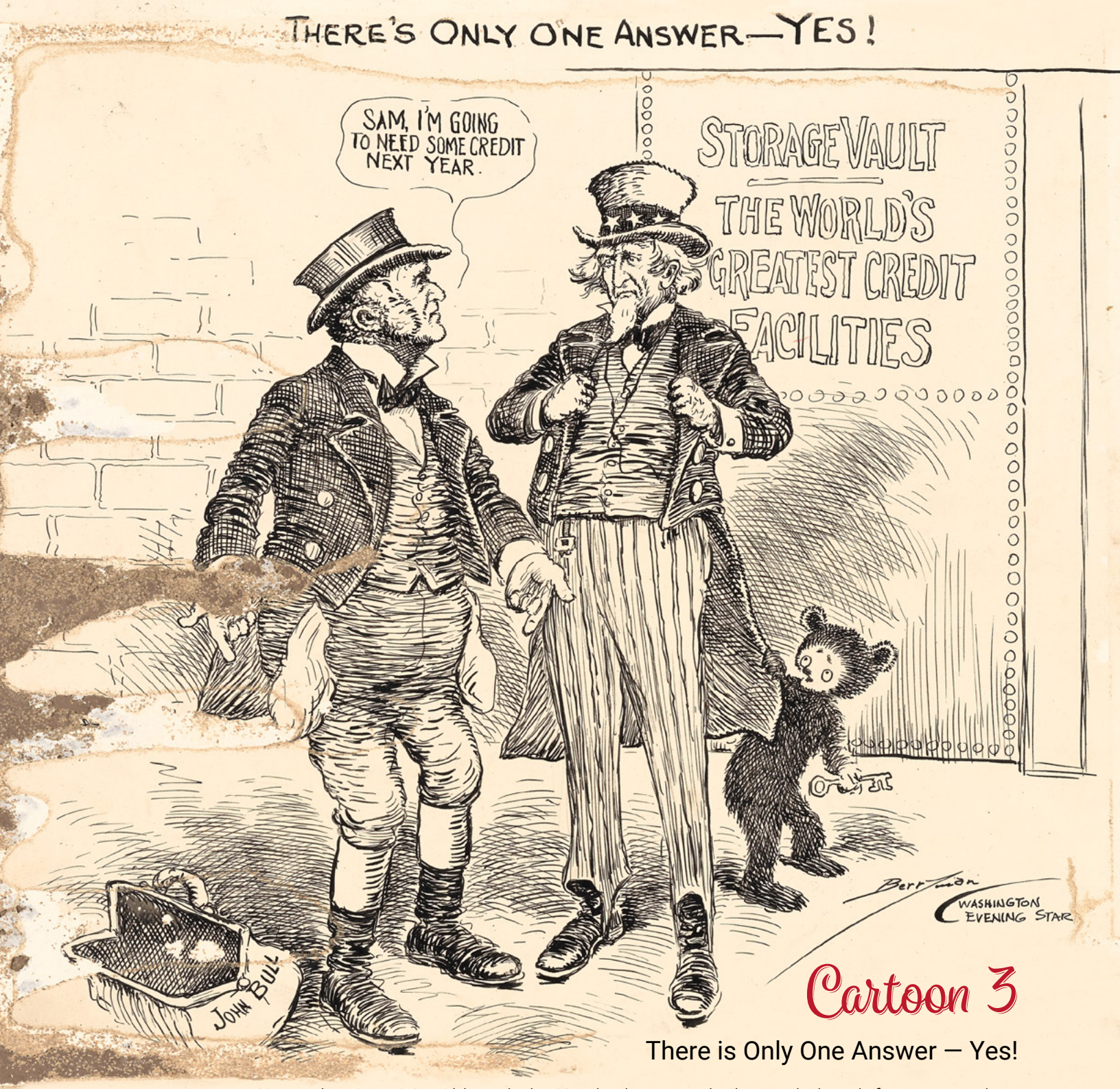
Cartoon 2 Lady Godiva Rides Again through Coventry's Streets

November 17, 1940. Germany destroyed British cities by using long-range bombers against civilian populations.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743122

LADY GODIVA RIDES AGAIN THROUGH COVENTRY'S STREETS

World War II, 1940–45



Cartoon 3

There is Only One Answer — Yes!

November 26, 1940. Although the U.S. had previously demanded cash for war supplies, by 1940 the U.K had no cash left to pay the U.S. and asked for credit.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012222

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 4 WHOOSH

March 16, 1941. Congress responded to Britain's peril by appropriating record amounts to fund the lend-lease program.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012229

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 5 That Old Russian Story Again

January 12, 1942. Russia's cold climate and fierce military resistance ultimately stopped Germany's invasion, dealing a setback to the Axis Powers.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012249

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 6 Low Tide Now

May 7, 1942. After Pearl Harbor and several more Japanese victories, the U.S. military was eager for a win, and racist representations of the enemy became common.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012265

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 7 Five Years of Dragon Swallowing & No End in Sight

July 7, 1942. Five years after attacking China in 1936, Japan remained unable to complete the conquest.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743126

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 8 Right in der Fuhrer's Face

January 28, 1943. At a conference in Morocco, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged to fight until Germany surrendered unconditionally.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012275

RIGHT IN DER FUEHRER'S FACE.

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 9 Lafayette We Are Here – Again

June 7, 1944. The landing by Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy in France opened a direct assault against Germany.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743133

World War II, 1940–45

Cartoon 10 Lest We Forget

June 6, 1945. The sacrifice of lives at Normandy and the millions of lives lost throughout the war argued for an internationalist U.S. foreign policy in the postwar era.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012308

WORLD WAR II

Life in the U.S., 1941 – 1944

World War II was a total war. In addition to the sacrifices of those in the military, the war required the contribution of the civilian population and the reorientation of industry. As a result, daily life in America changed. Industry produced materials needed for war instead of consumer products, so certain goods were in short supply. Other goods were rationed because they were needed at the front. The government established wage and price controls to ensure steady war production and to stabilize the economy. Women went to work in the defense industries, or took jobs left vacant by men heading off to fight. Children were encouraged to grow “victory gardens” to supplement food supplies. All Americans were called on to pay higher taxes and invest in war bonds. Not everybody had the same experience of these years; many Japanese-Americans, for example, were forced into internment camps. But, as the Berryman cartoons suggest, for most Americans the war was a time of shared purpose, sacrifice, and upheaval.

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 11 Gee! Have I Got to Take that One Too?

January 1, 1941. Eleven months before the Pearl Harbor attack, European events forewarned America of the coming war.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743125

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 12 Something Seems to be Holding Me Back

January 31, 1941. Congress struggled to support wartime industry without sacrificing the rights and needs of laborers.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012227

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 13 The Sugar-Coated Pills

May 4, 1941. To provide war materials to the Allied Powers, the U.S. government increased its spending, which made new and higher taxes necessary.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 6012238

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 14 Public Enemies

February 22, 1942. While the FBI's "most wanted list" encouraged the public to keep an eye out for criminals, Berryman zeroed in on a new kind of enemy: anyone who undermined the war effort.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012255

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 15 Scorch the Comforts, Uncle

March 12, 1942. The public's sacrifices during World War II included military service, paying taxes, and going without consumer goods.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012259

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 16 David, Goliath and the Taxpayer

April 29, 1942. Americans faced both higher taxes and a higher cost of living during the war.

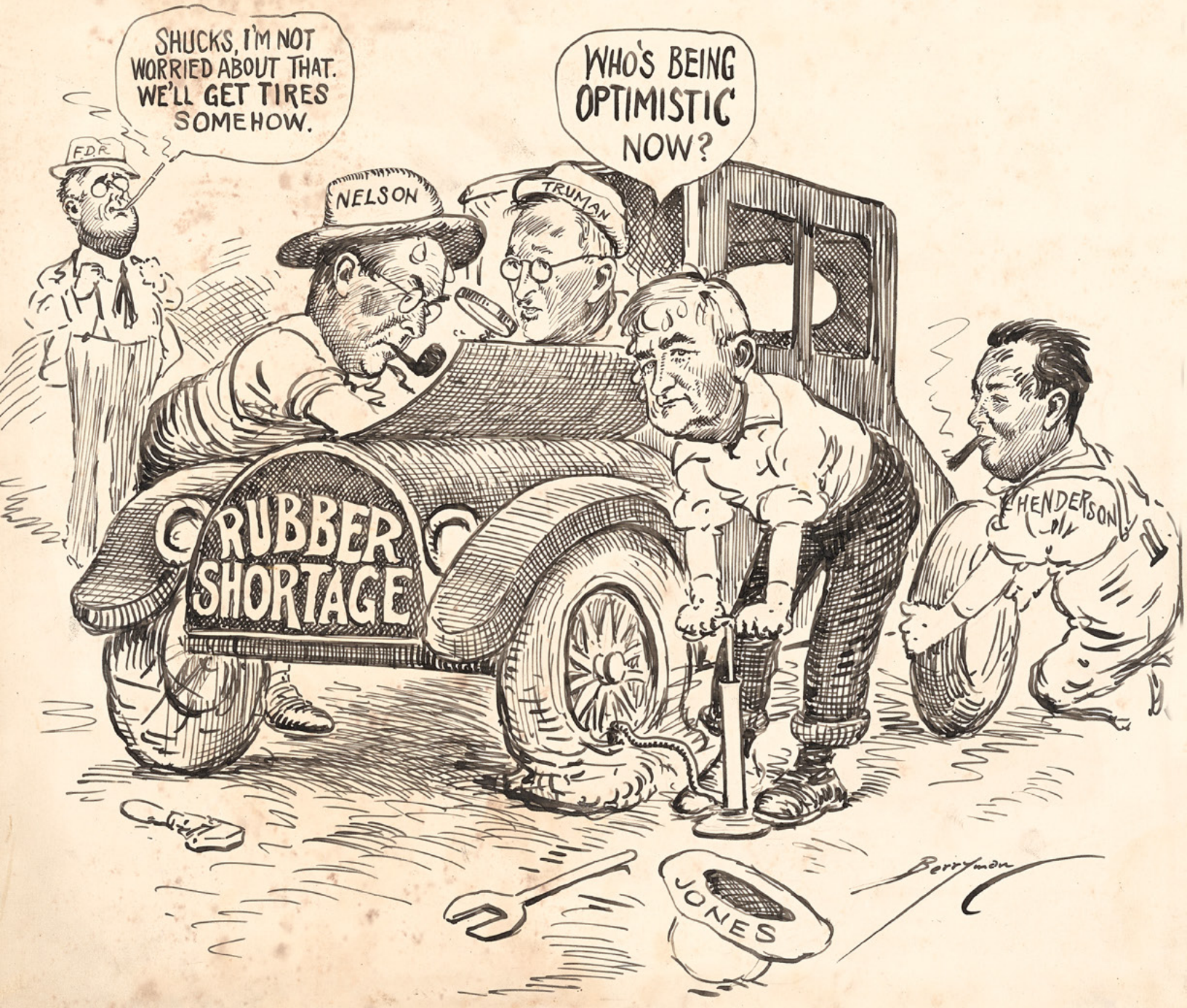
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 6012264

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 17 Rubber Shortage

May 28, 1942. The military need for certain resources created wartime shortages of consumer goods.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012266

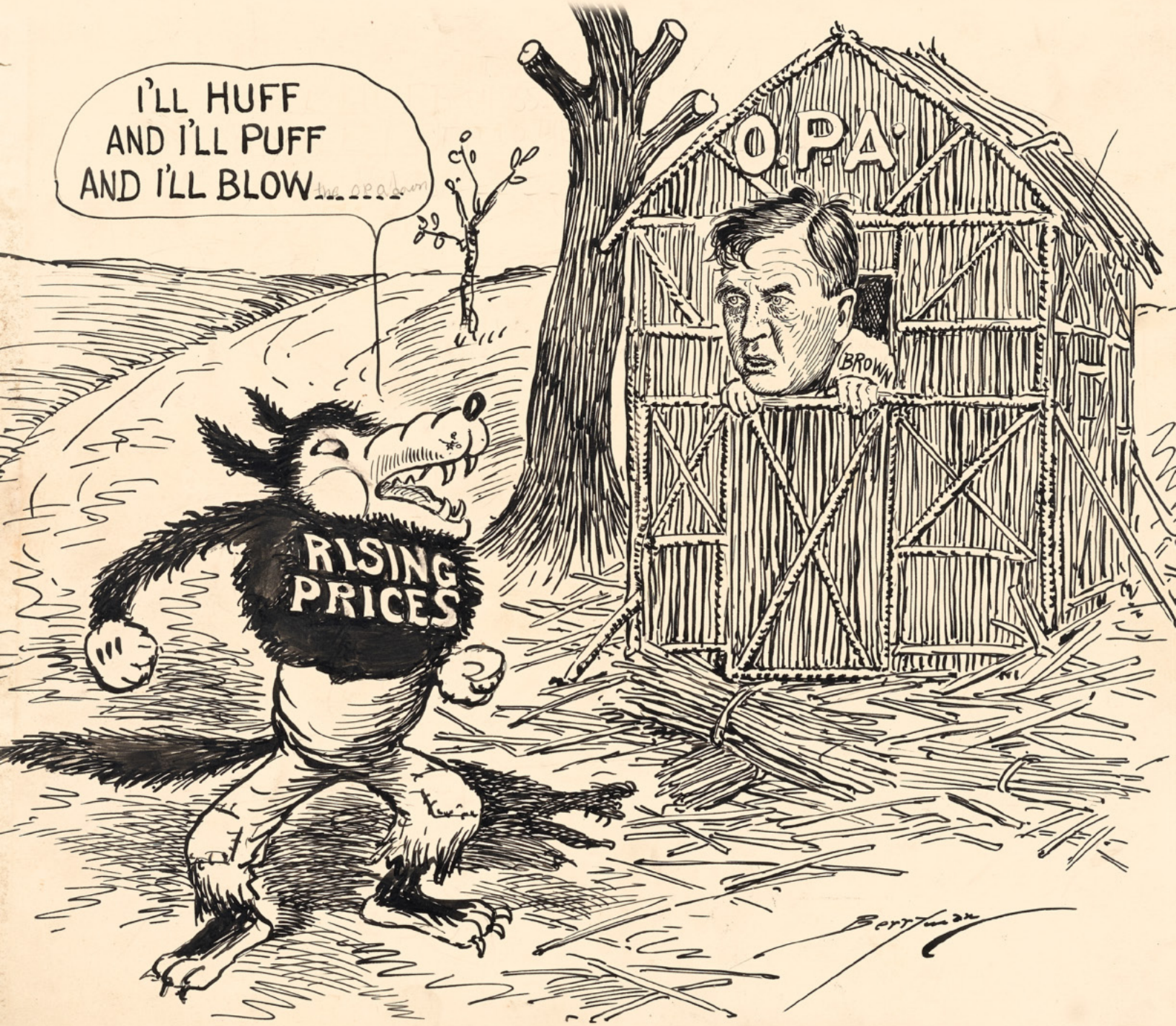


World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 18 Rising Prices

May 22, 1943. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) couldn't stand up to the threat of wartime inflation.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012287



World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 19 Better than a Wreath

May 30, 1943. Waging war was costly in lives and dollars. The public volunteered to fight and bought bonds to support the war.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743127

World War II, 1941–44

Cartoon 20 I Just Can't Stand Secrets

June 9, 1944. Republican opponents of President Franklin D. Roosevelt were eager to investigate whether any mistakes on the part of his military leaders had contributed to the devastation at Pearl Harbor.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743134

I JUST CAN'T STAND SECRETS

3

POST WAR ISSUES

New Challenges at Home and Abroad, 1945 – 1948

The end of World War II was cause for celebration, but it also brought new challenges. These included rebuilding and reorganizing a devastated Europe, reckoning with the aftermath of the Holocaust, adjusting to the reality of a world with nuclear weapons, creating an international organization capable of preventing future global war, and responding to communism. Closer to home, Americans enjoyed the greater availability of consumer goods but struggled with rising prices. Returning veterans looked for jobs and homes and formed families, creating a baby boom and a housing shortage, followed by a construction boom. As industry transitioned back to a peacetime economy, new tensions emerged between management and labor unions. Nevertheless, spared the wartime destruction that set back so many other countries, the U.S. settled into a period of steady economic growth. The Berryman cartoons reflect many of these changes and challenges.

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 21 The World Waits at Yalta

February 9, 1945. The U.S., U.S.S.R., & U.K. redrew the world map at the Yalta Conference.

Clifford Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012295

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 22 Postwar Navy

September 11, 1945. With the U.S. in possession of the atomic bomb, leaders debated how large the postwar military needed to be.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012314

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 23 FILL 'ER UP!

August 17, 1945. In the wake of World War II, Americans were eager to return to peacetime living and hungered for consumer goods.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012312

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 24 Health Insurance

November 21, 1945. Amid a host of challenges at the end of the war, President Harry Truman proposed a national health insurance program.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012319

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 25 Reorganization of Congress

July 28, 1946. In 1946 Congress reorganized its committee structure, and in the next election the voters "reorganized" the membership of Congress, ending the Democratic Party's long-standing majority.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 306100

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 26 Path to Peace?

August 27, 1946. Soon after the war, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's push for greater influence in Europe threatened to upset the fragile international peace.

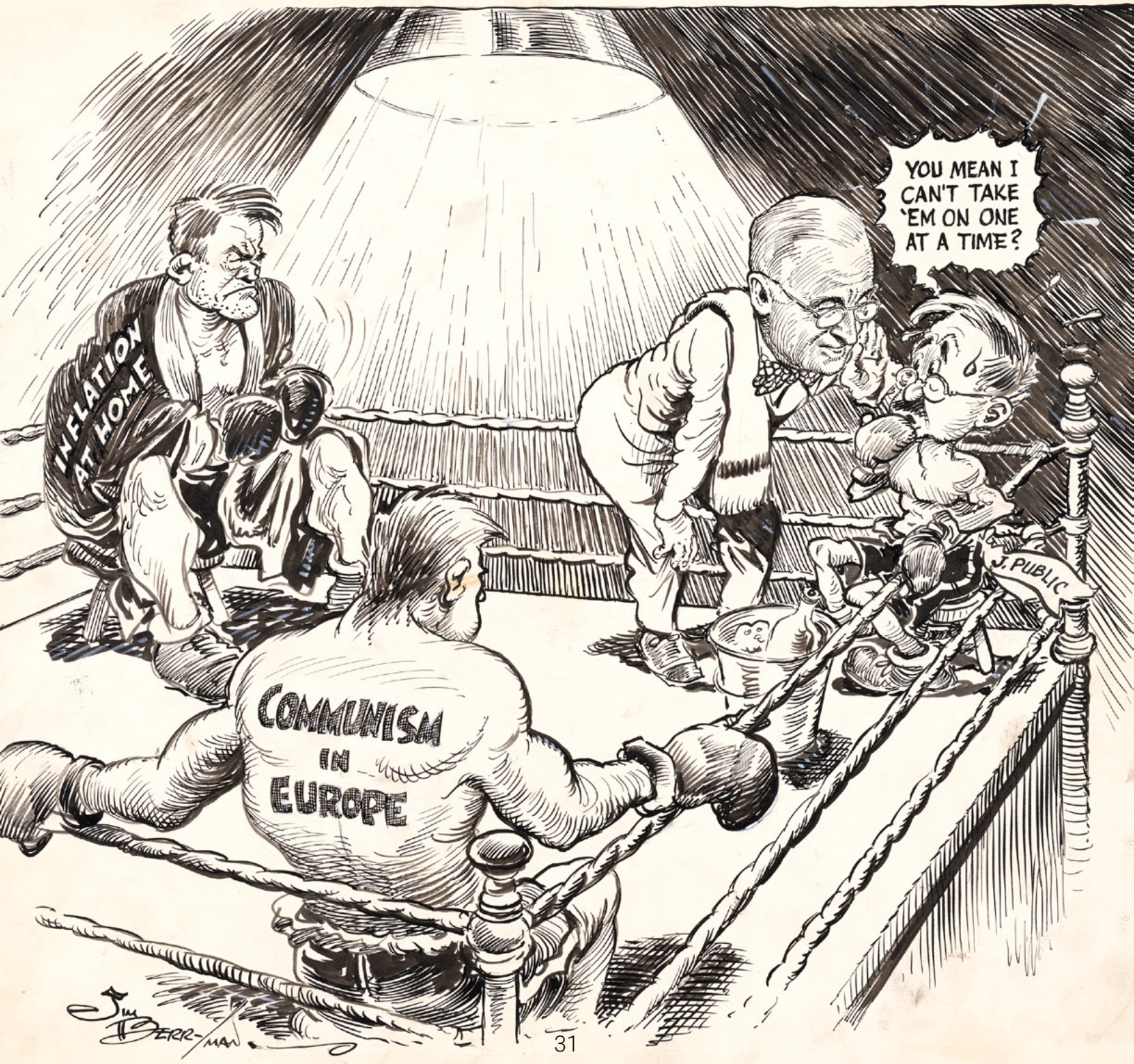
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012362

Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 27 One at a Time?

November 19, 1947. In the immediate postwar years, President Harry Truman struggled to convince an American public most concerned about the rising cost of living to give equal attention to the fight against communism abroad.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743141

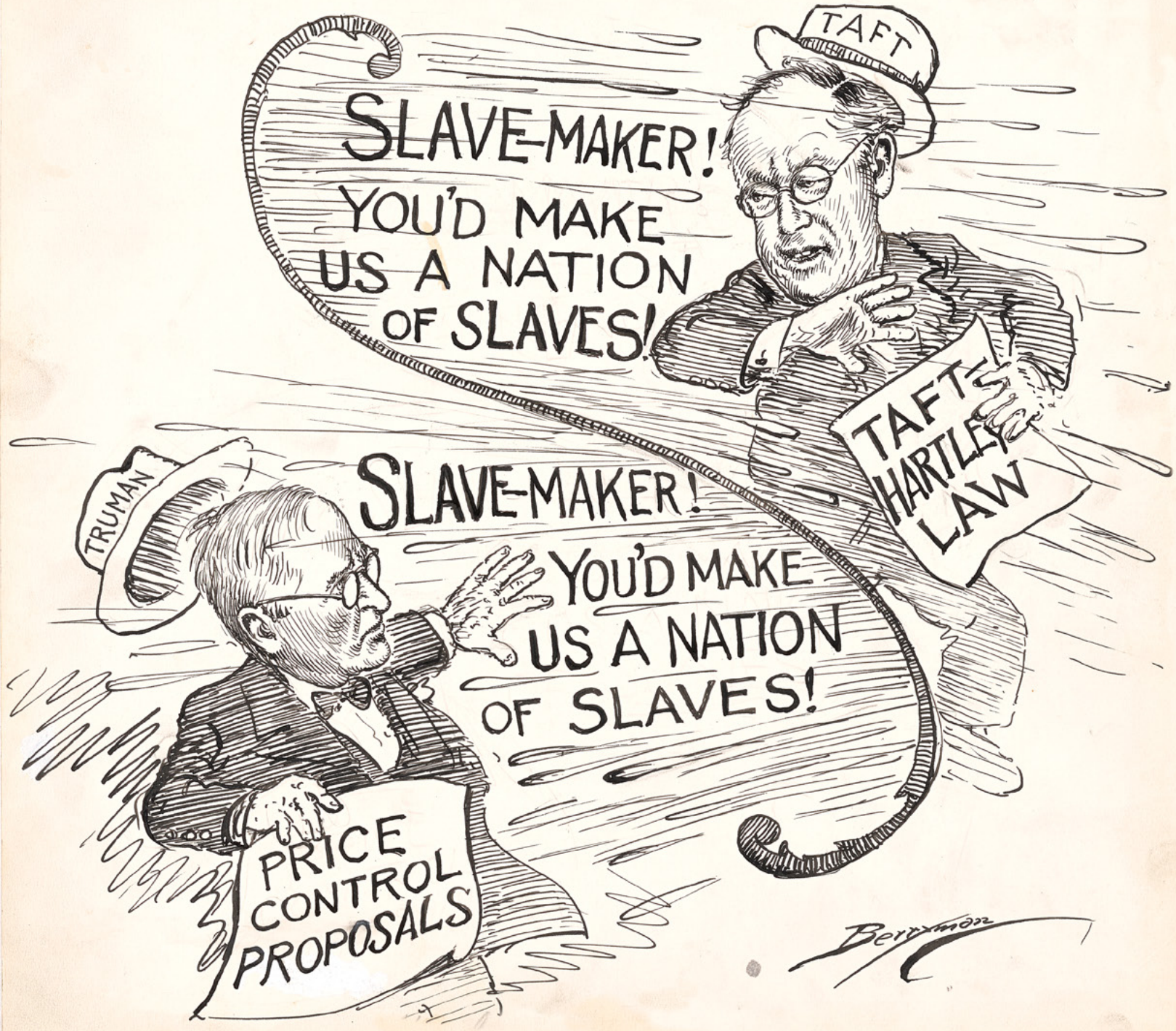


Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 28 Maybe Turnabout is Fair Play

November 20, 1947. The postwar economy was plagued by disruptive labor strikes and spiraling prices; some leaders thought the solution was to control labor, while others called for greater regulation of business.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012412

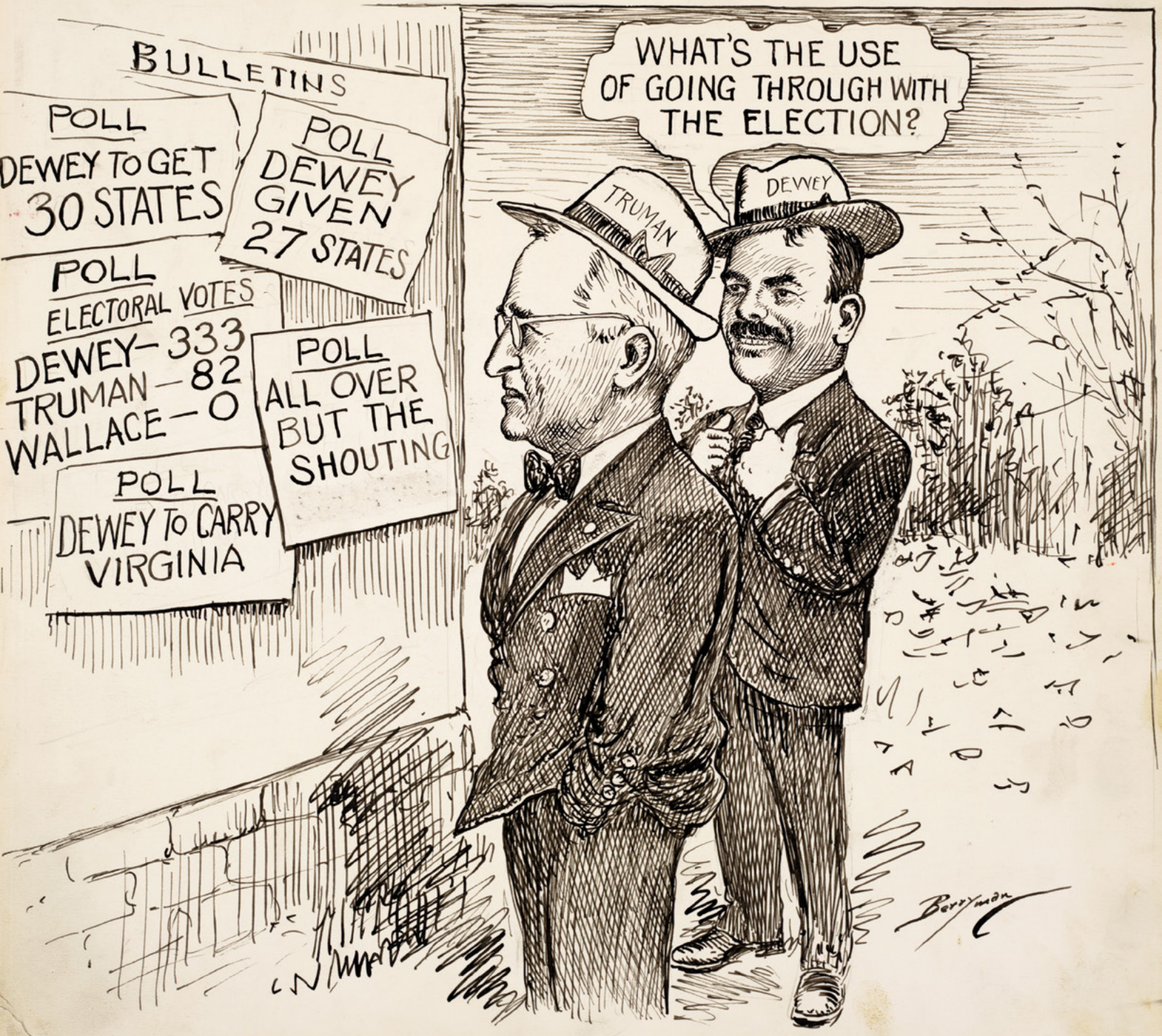


Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 29 What's the Use of Going Through with the Election?

October 19, 1948. According to the polls, President Harry S. Truman was highly unpopular just before his surprising victory over Thomas E. Dewey in the 1948 election.

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 306150

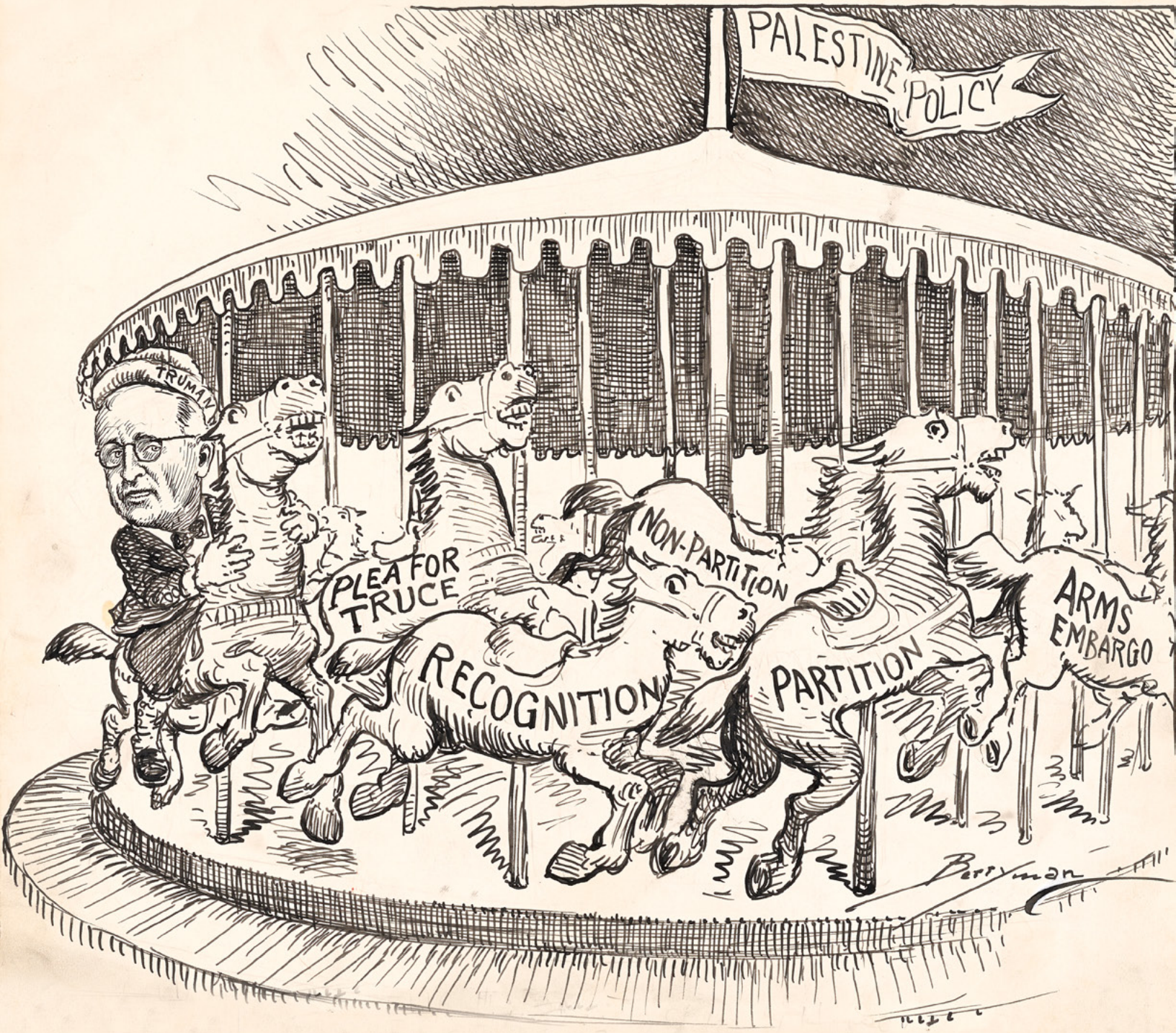


Post War Issues, 1945–48

Cartoon 30 What's He Riding This Time Around

May 27, 1948. This carousel illustrates the uncertainty of the Truman Administration's policy on the movement to create the state of Israel within Palestine

Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012423



4

THE COLD WAR

An Era of Rising Tensions, 1948 – 1955

The post-World War II period saw the emergence of two global superpowers with opposing worldviews: the capitalist U.S. and the communist U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) The two former allies were increasingly at odds after the war. The Soviets immediately exerted control over Eastern Europe, while communist regimes also contended for dominance elsewhere (most notably in China, which fell to communism in 1949). The U.S. adopted an official policy of containment, which aimed to halt the spread of communism. The ongoing rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviets was dubbed a Cold War because the two countries never waged “hot” war: they never fought each other directly. However, each backed opposing governments in a number of “proxy wars.” The Korean War (1950-1953) was one such conflict; the Soviets supported communist North Korea, while the Americans backed the non-communist south. The Berryman cartoons capture both the rising tensions of this era and the attempts made to ease animosity.

Cartoon 31 What's Sauce for the Goose Is Sauce for the Gander

May 20, 1948. Fearing domestic subversion, Congress debated an internal security bill requiring communists to register.

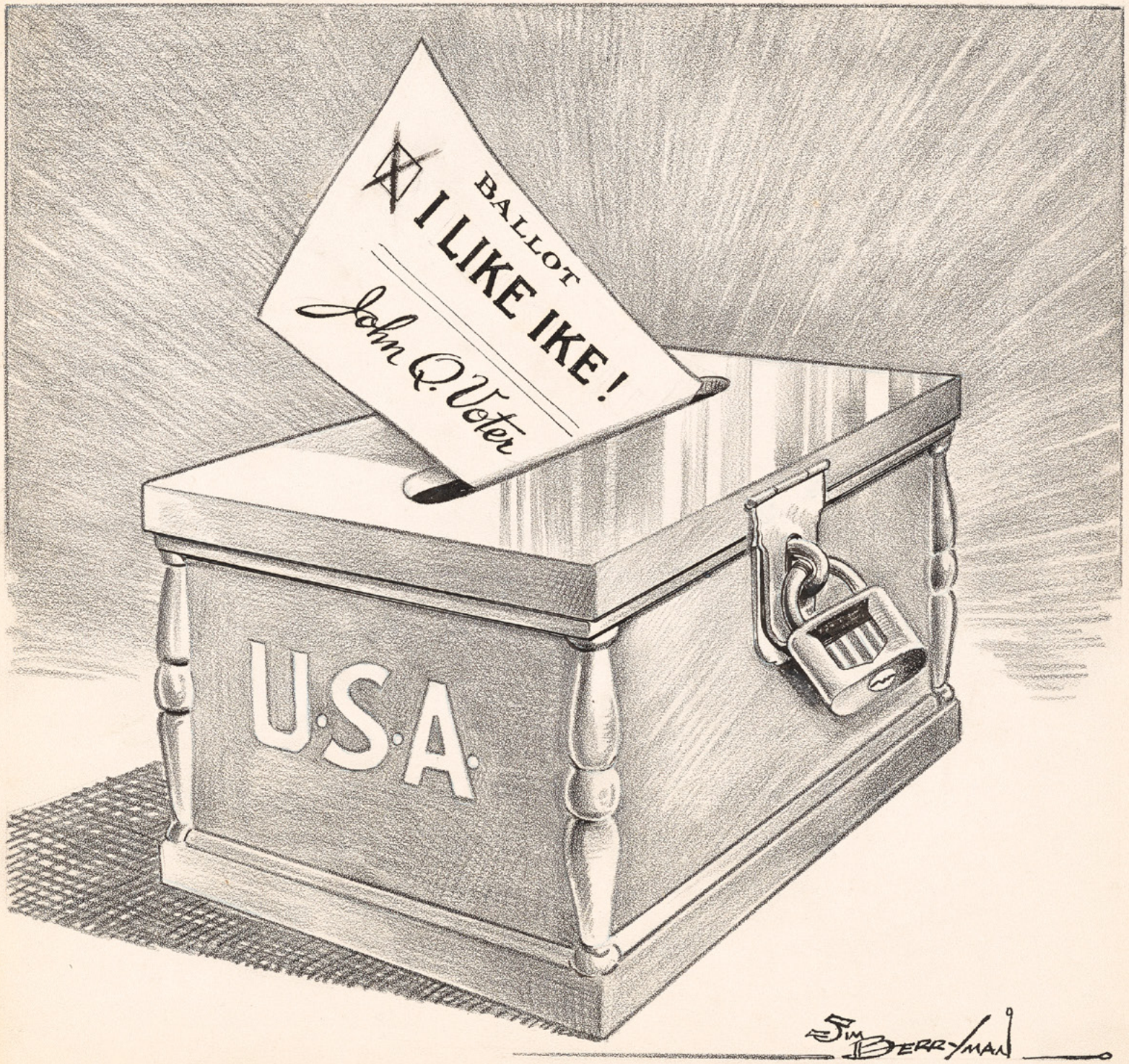
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012422

The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 32 I Like Ike!

November 5, 1952. As America wrestled with the threat of communist aggression, a record number of voters elected wartime commander Dwight D. Eisenhower to the presidency.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743170



The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 33 It's All Yours

February 3, 1953. President Eisenhower was reluctant to involve the U.S. in a war between non-Communist China - led by Chiang Kai Shek - and communist "Red" China.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743173

The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 34 They Really Had Me Worried

June 23, 1953. Three years into the Korean War, Americans hoped for a truce, but their South Korean ally threatened to prolong the conflict.

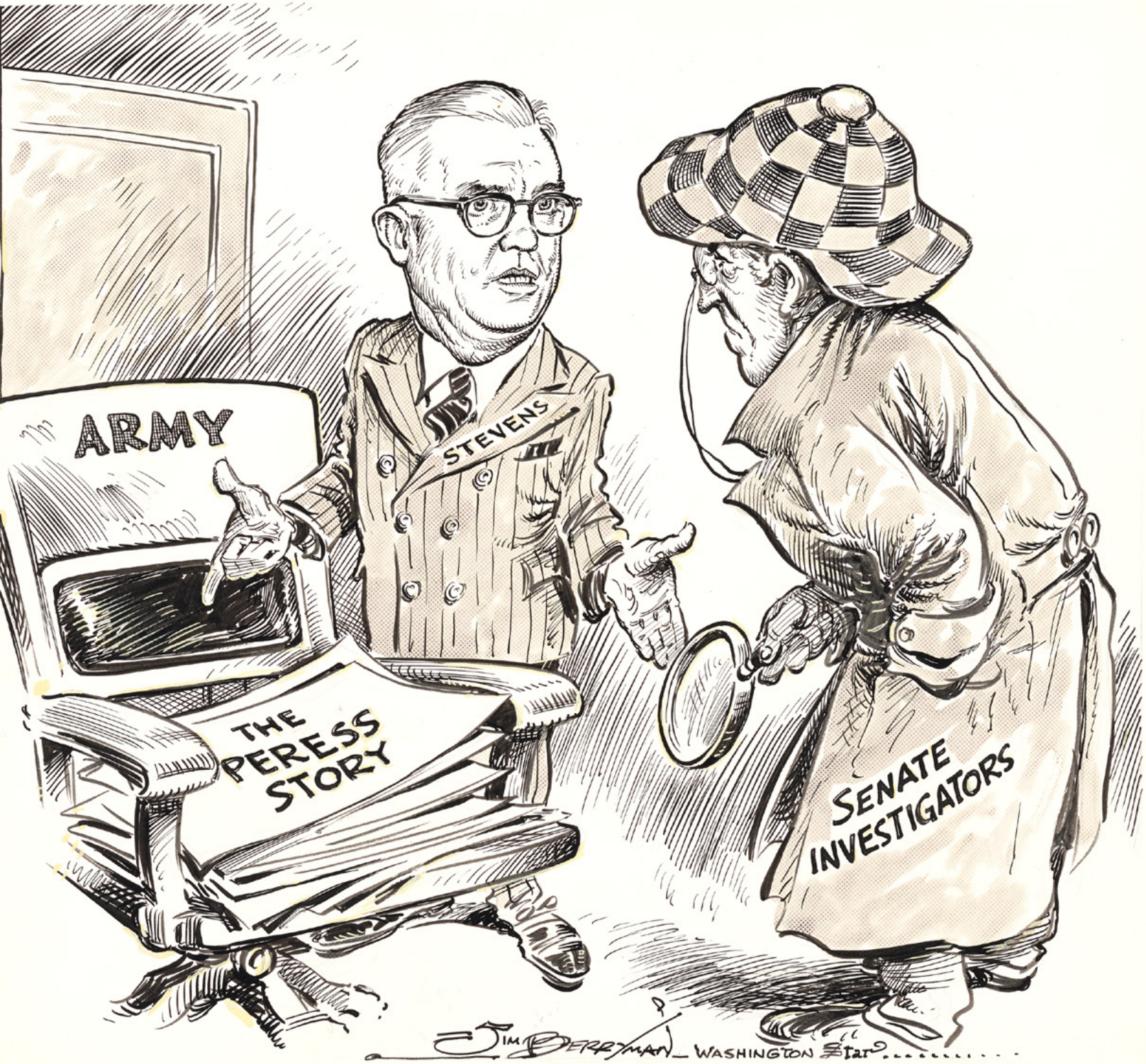
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743179

The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 35 It's No Secret...We've Just Been Sitting on It!

January 11, 1955. In a Senate investigation, Sen. Joseph McCarthy charged that the Army was tolerant of an alleged communist in its ranks.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743196



The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 36 Sounds Like the Line I Fell for Ten Years Ago

February 20, 1955. A decade after World War II, the U.S. contained communist expansion through military might and resisted Soviet calls for arms limitations.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743199

The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 37 Second Curtain

September 9, 1955. The Soviet Union rejected German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's call to reunify Germany and maintained the "iron curtain" division of Europe.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743209

The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 38 I've heard and seen so much...For one so young

September 20, 1955. By serving as a forum for international negotiation, the United Nations helped an anxious world avoid a major conflict after World War II.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743210

The Cold War, 1948–55

Cartoon 39

I thought I had an appointment

November 1, 1955. As Cold War rivals, the U.S & U.S.S.R. jockeyed for global influence by supplying arms to competing countries in various regions.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743214

Cartoon 40 Eclipse

November 14, 1955. Soviet resistance clouded the promise of the Geneva Summit, where leaders of the major powers tried to reach agreements and lower Cold War tensions.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743217

5

THE COLD WAR

An Era of Standoffs, 1956 – 1963

By the mid-1950s, what started as a disagreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. over the postwar reorganization of Europe had expanded into a global struggle for influence. Countries around the world gradually lined up behind one superpower or the other. This increasingly global standoff posed many questions: Would independent countries emerging from colonial rule in Africa and Asia adopt political systems friendly to the U.S., or would they end up with governments friendly to the Soviets? Which Chinese government should the United Nations recognize—the communist one, or the non-communist one? In 1961-1962, the Soviet-American rivalry reached a new level of intensity and brought the world to the brink of nuclear war in what became known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. After a failed U.S.-sponsored invasion of communist Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, the Soviets took steps to place missiles in Cuba. This meant that nuclear weapons were being positioned a mere 90 miles from America's shores. Negotiations ultimately resolved the crisis, but a sense of being on the edge of disaster became the new normal. What's more, it was unclear how to make the world safer in the nuclear age. (Was the answer more nuclear weapons to guarantee the "mutually assured destruction" that might keep either side from ever making a first strike? Or was the answer fewer nuclear weapons all around?) Jim Berryman's cartoons depict many of the dilemmas and flash points of this increasingly dangerous era.

Cartoon 41 A Test He Can't Abandon!

October 30, 1956. Some U.S. leaders – such as presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson – warned that the destructive potential of the H Bomb made nuclear war suicidal and argued for disarmament as the safer path forward.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743235

The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 42 This Wouldn't Stand Inspection!

December 7, 1956. When the Soviet Union crushed a Hungarian revolt against Soviet control in 1956, the American public empathized with unarmed protesters who stood up to invading tanks.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743239

The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 43 Backing it Up

May 6, 1957. NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization) relied on the threat of all-out nuclear retaliation to hold off a communist attack on Europe.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743241

Cartoon 44 You Stir I'll Season

July 20, 1958. Arab nationalism, inspired by Egyptian leader Gamel Abdel Nasser and backed by the Soviets, stirred up revolution across the Middle East, disrupting the old pro-Western equilibrium.

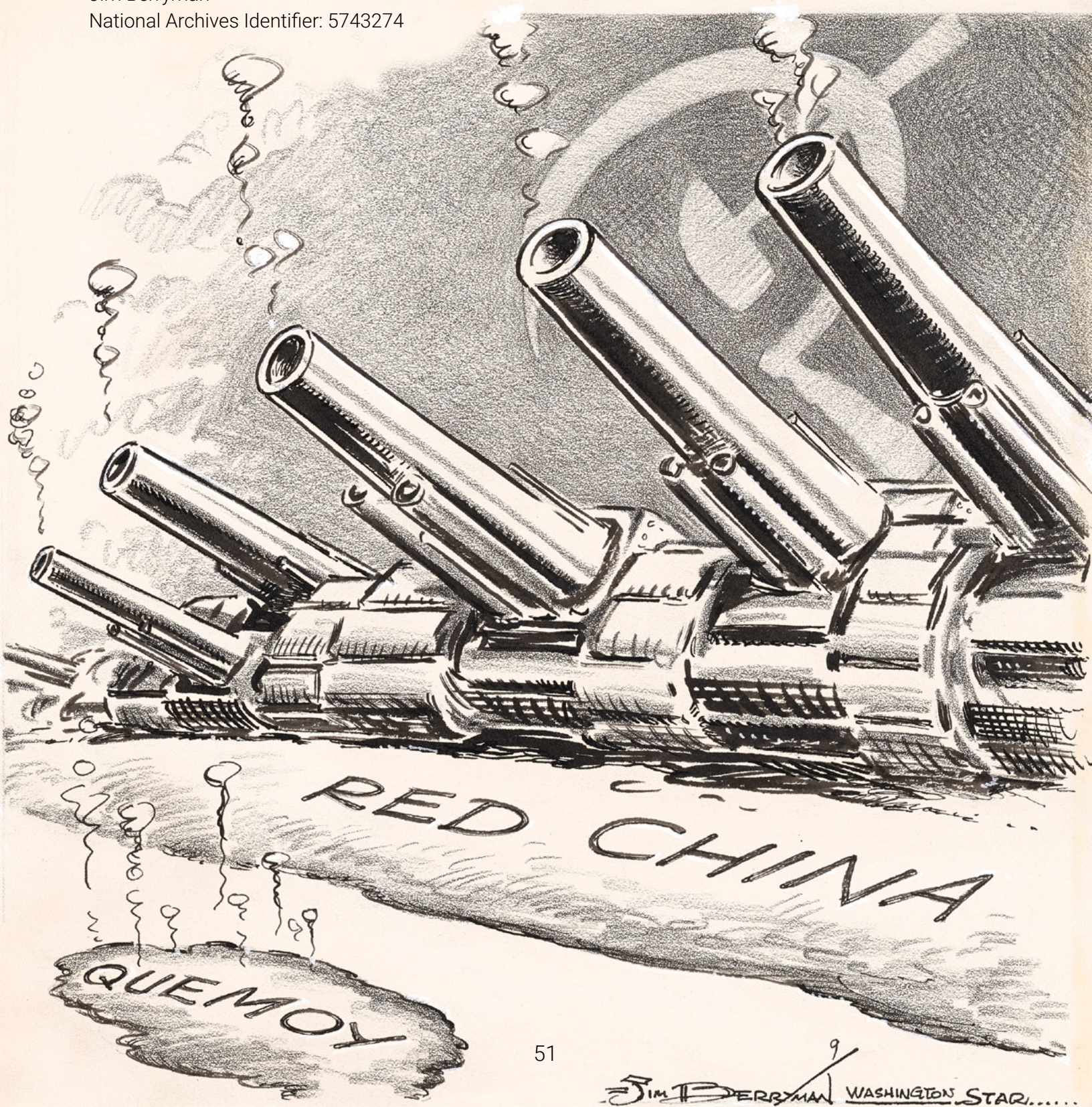
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743266

The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 45 The Guns are Quiet but Still Loaded

October 7, 1958. Cold war tensions rose when the communist government of mainland China launched artillery attacks on the island of Quemoy, threatening America's non-communist ally, Taiwan.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743274



The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 46 In English or Spanish It Means What It Says

November 3, 1960. The U.S. vowed to defend its naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba, amid fear of an impending attack by Fidel Castro's communist forces.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743286

The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 47 I Don't Think I Can Make It

August 1, 1961. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev promised dramatically improved living standards in a new economic plan for the Soviet Union.

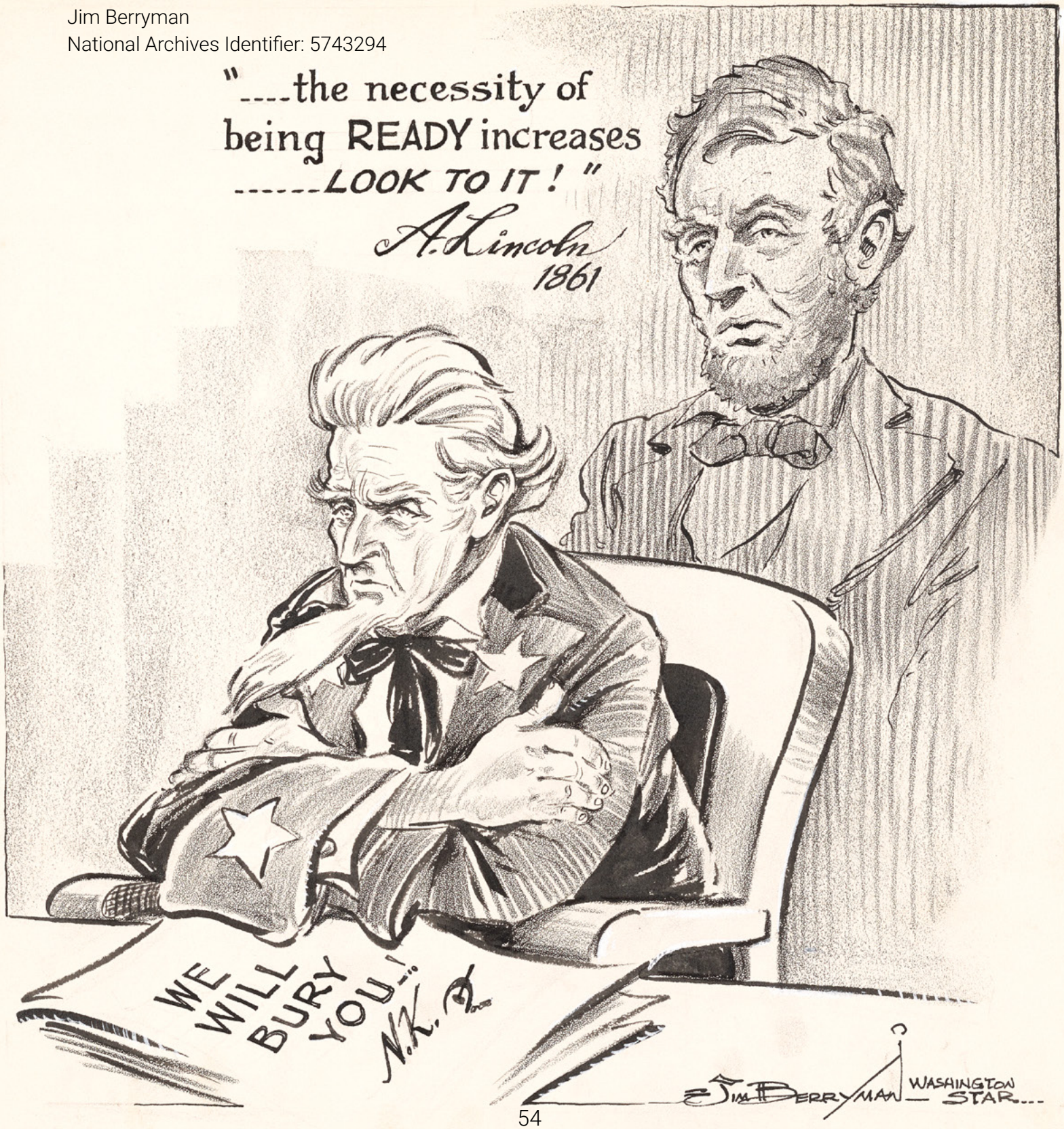
Jim Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 5743293

The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 48 Timely Advice...Though Given a Century Ago!

February 12, 1962. The U.S. was wary when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, who once claimed he would "bury" the U.S., proposed changes to upcoming diplomatic talks.

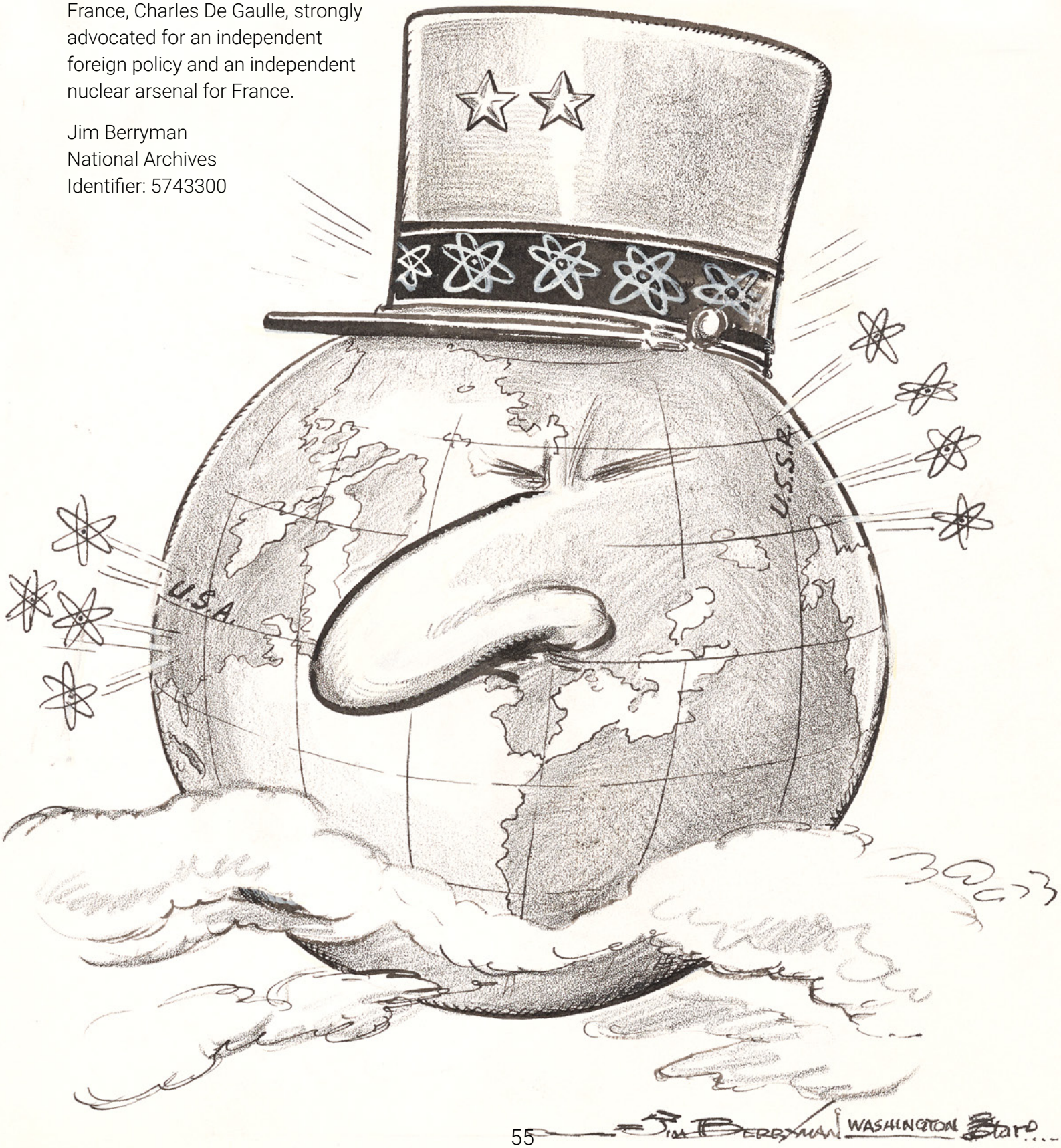
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743294



Cartoon 49 A General View of the Global Situation

October 1, 1963.The President of France, Charles De Gaulle, strongly advocated for an independent foreign policy and an independent nuclear arsenal for France.

Jim Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 5743300



The Cold War, 1956–63

Cartoon 50 Blackballed…Again

October 23, 1963. Led by the U.S. — which recognized only non-communist Taiwan as China — the United Nations repeatedly rejected mainland China's bid for membership.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743303

6

CIVIL RIGHTS

Confrontations Over Equality, 1956 –1963

In its 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, the U.S. Supreme Court declared racial segregation in schools unconstitutional. Across the South, however, segregationists resisted integration, adopting strategies of delay, intimidation, and violence. The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s sought to end segregation and all forms of racial discrimination. Powered by an array of organizations, leaders, and determined citizens, the movement centered on nonviolent protest and civil disobedience. Peaceful protests like the Montgomery bus boycott and the Greensboro sit-ins and the March on Washington won support for the cause. Congress eventually passed protective legislation, including the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960, which focused on voting rights, and the more comprehensive Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed racial segregation and discrimination. But the struggle for full racial equality would continue. Jim Berryman's cartoons, drawn as events were unfolding, are artifacts of this turbulent era.

Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 51 Smothered

July 7, 1956. A major educational funding bill failed to pass Congress when an amendment to it barred aid to states with racially segregated schools.

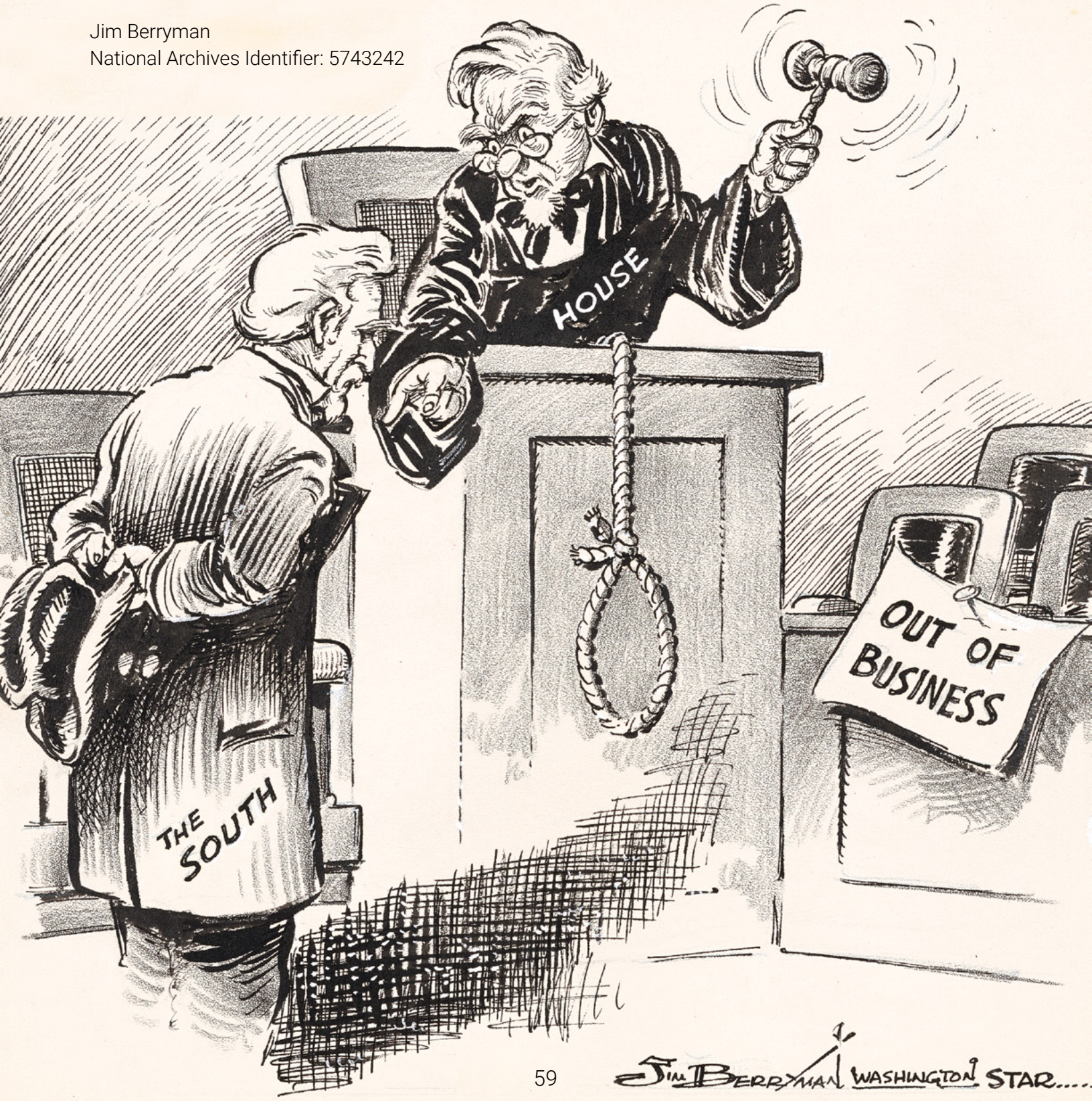
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743224

Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 52 No Jury Trial for the Likes of You

June 16, 1957. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 required that certain civil rights cases be heard by federal court judges instead of local juries, recognizing that local southern juries seldom convicted civil rights offenders.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743242



Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 53 The Place is Full of Simon Legrees!

June 22, 1957. Civil rights legislation dodged one Senate peril when it was maneuvered past the Judiciary Committee, but it still faced a certain filibuster on the Senate floor.

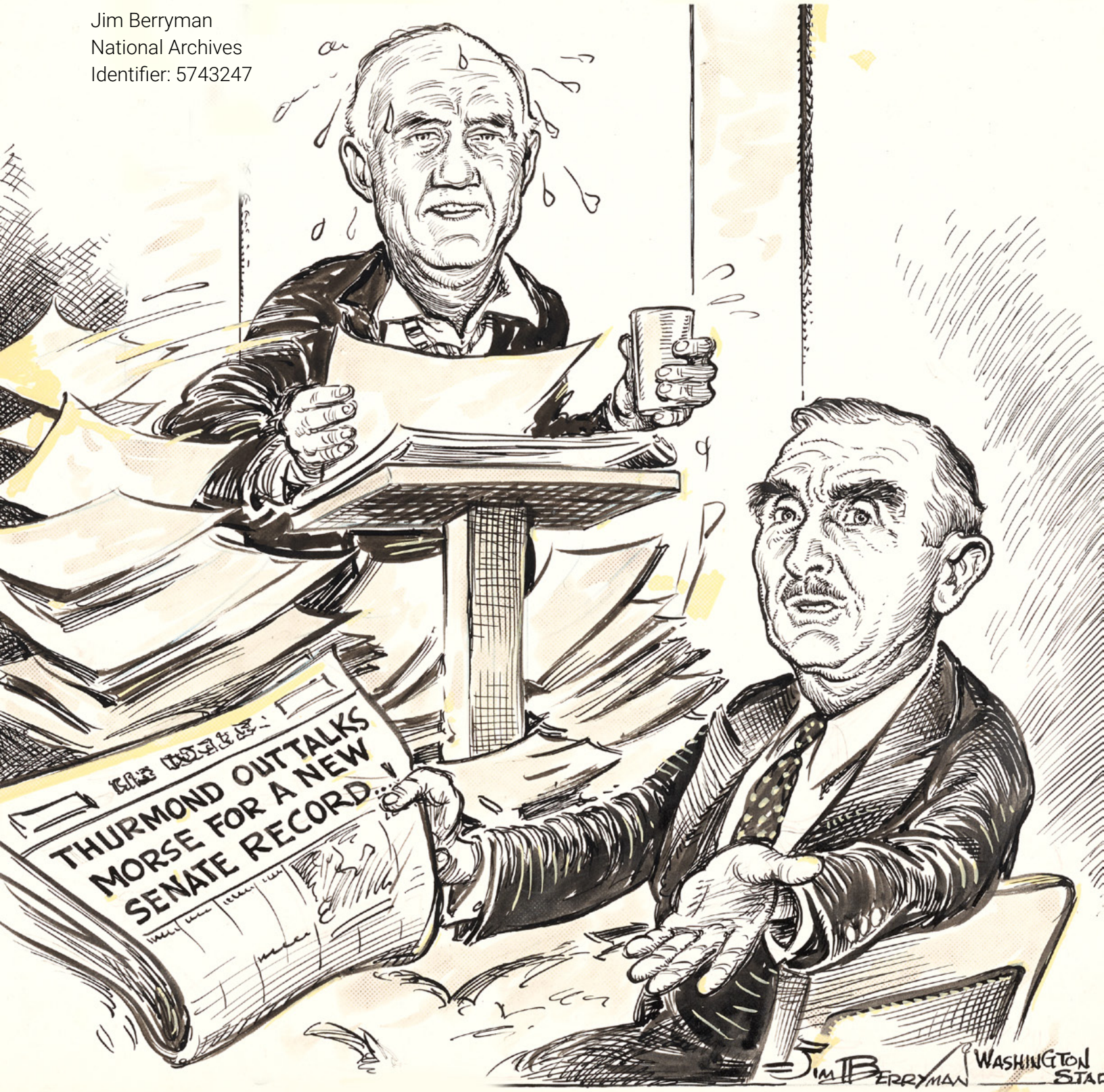
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743243

Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 54 I Wouldn't Have Believed It Possible!

August 31, 1957. The Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first federal civil rights legislation to pass in Congress since 1875, passed despite a 24-hour-long filibuster by Senator Strom Thurmond.

Jim Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 5743247

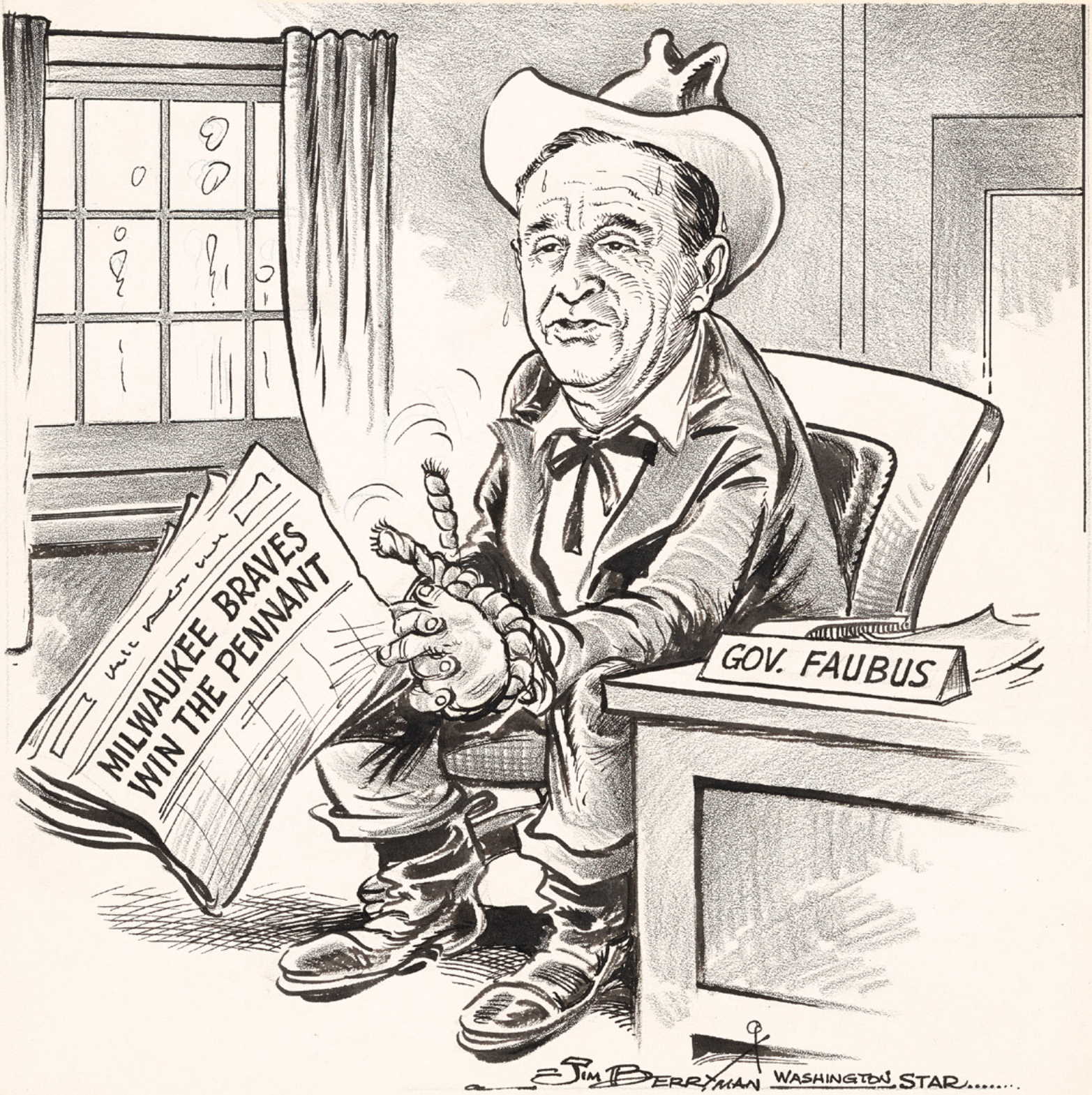


Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 55 Maybe They Can Beat the Yankees!

September 26, 1957. President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to integrate schools, in effect tying the hands of the state's defiantly segregationist governor, Orval Faubus.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743251

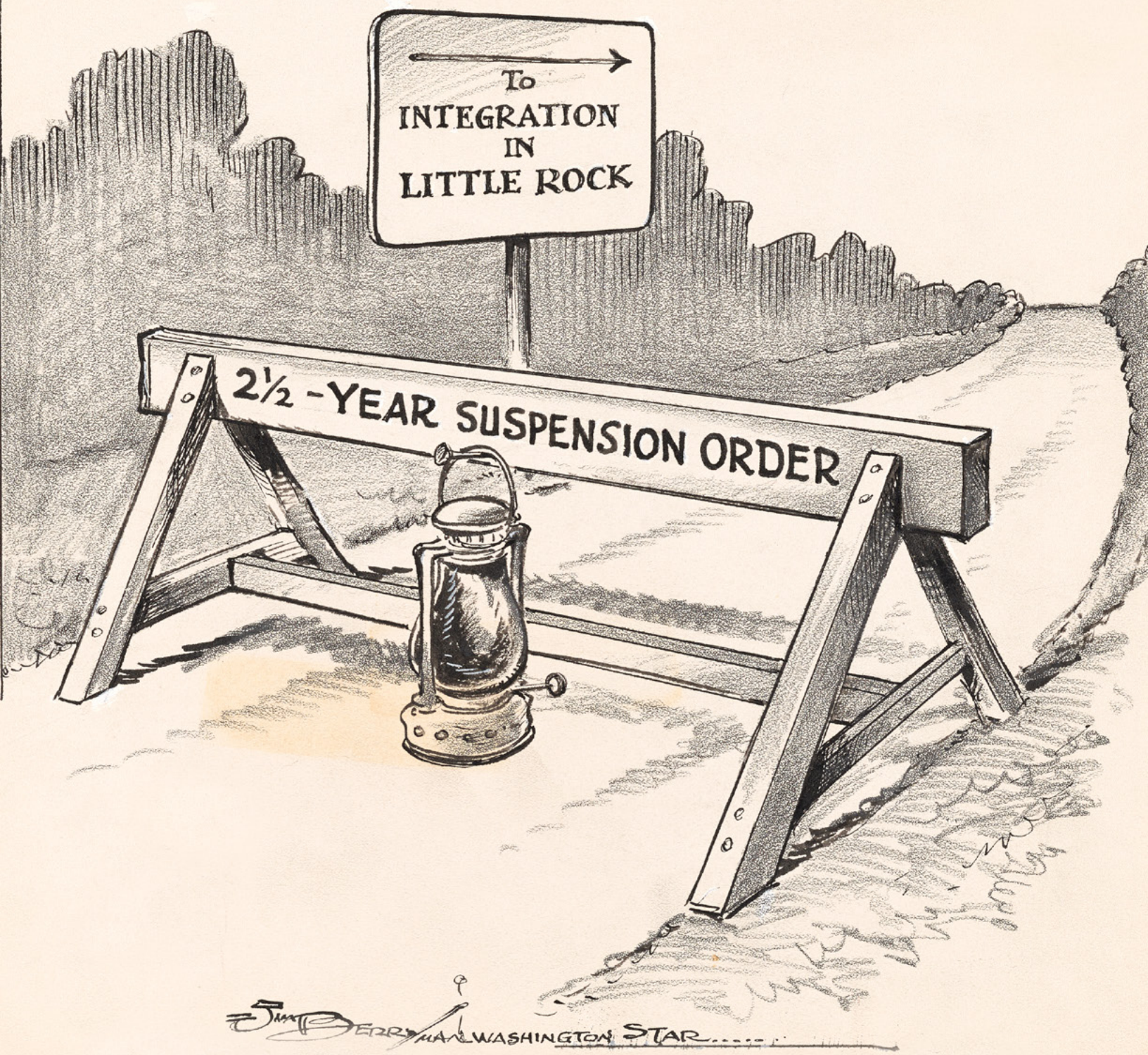


Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 56 Roadblock...Or Repair Work Ahead?

June 24, 1958. Although federal troops enforced a partial integration of Little Rock's schools in 1957, the city struck back the following year with a plan to push off integration for two and a half more years.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743262



Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 57 With This Issue I Couldn't Lose

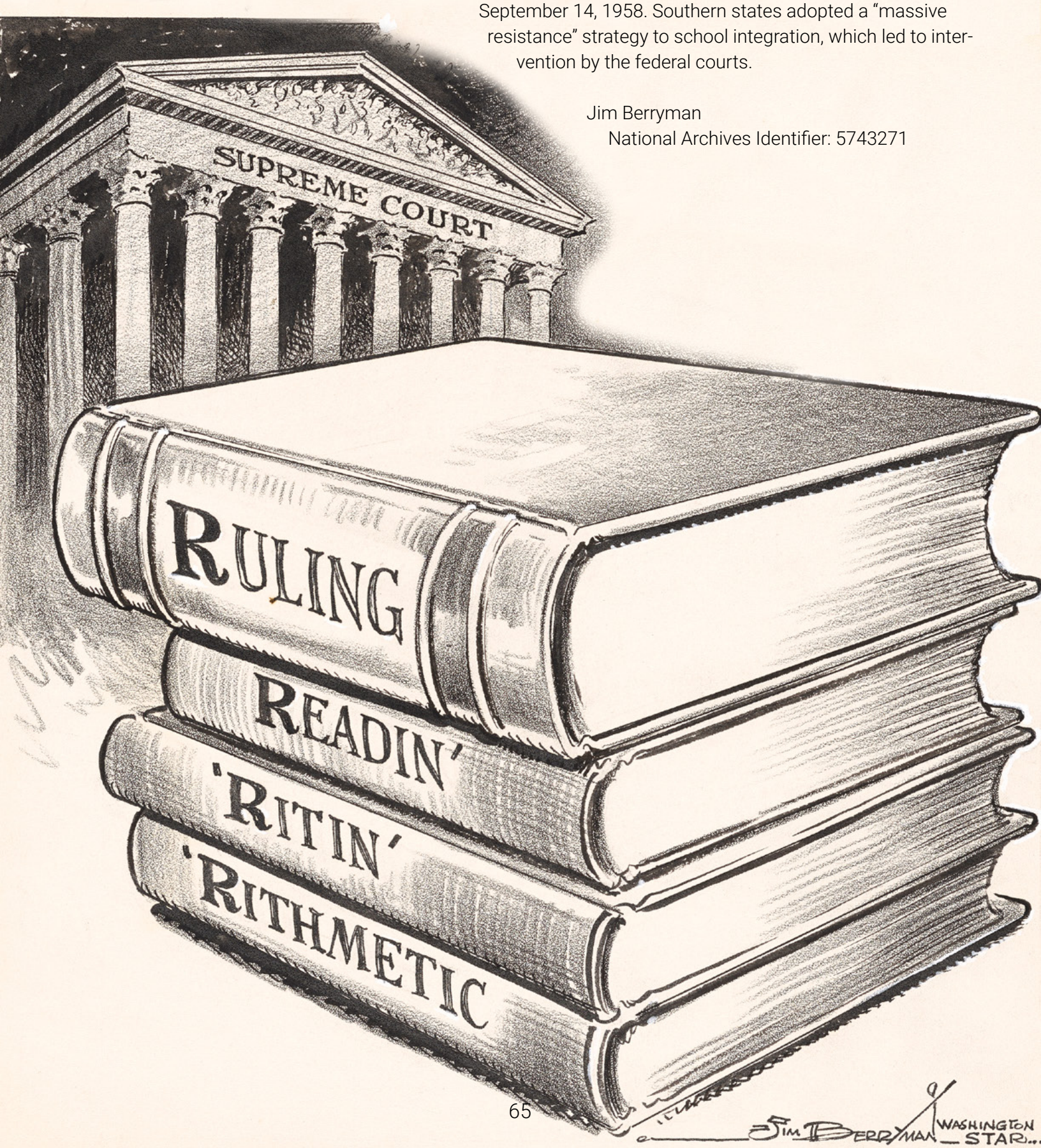
July 31, 1958. Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus won reelection on the basis of his opposition to federal actions that forced Little Rock schools to integrate.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743268

Cartoon 58 Fourth 'R' in Public Schools

September 14, 1958. Southern states adopted a "massive resistance" strategy to school integration, which led to intervention by the federal courts.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743271

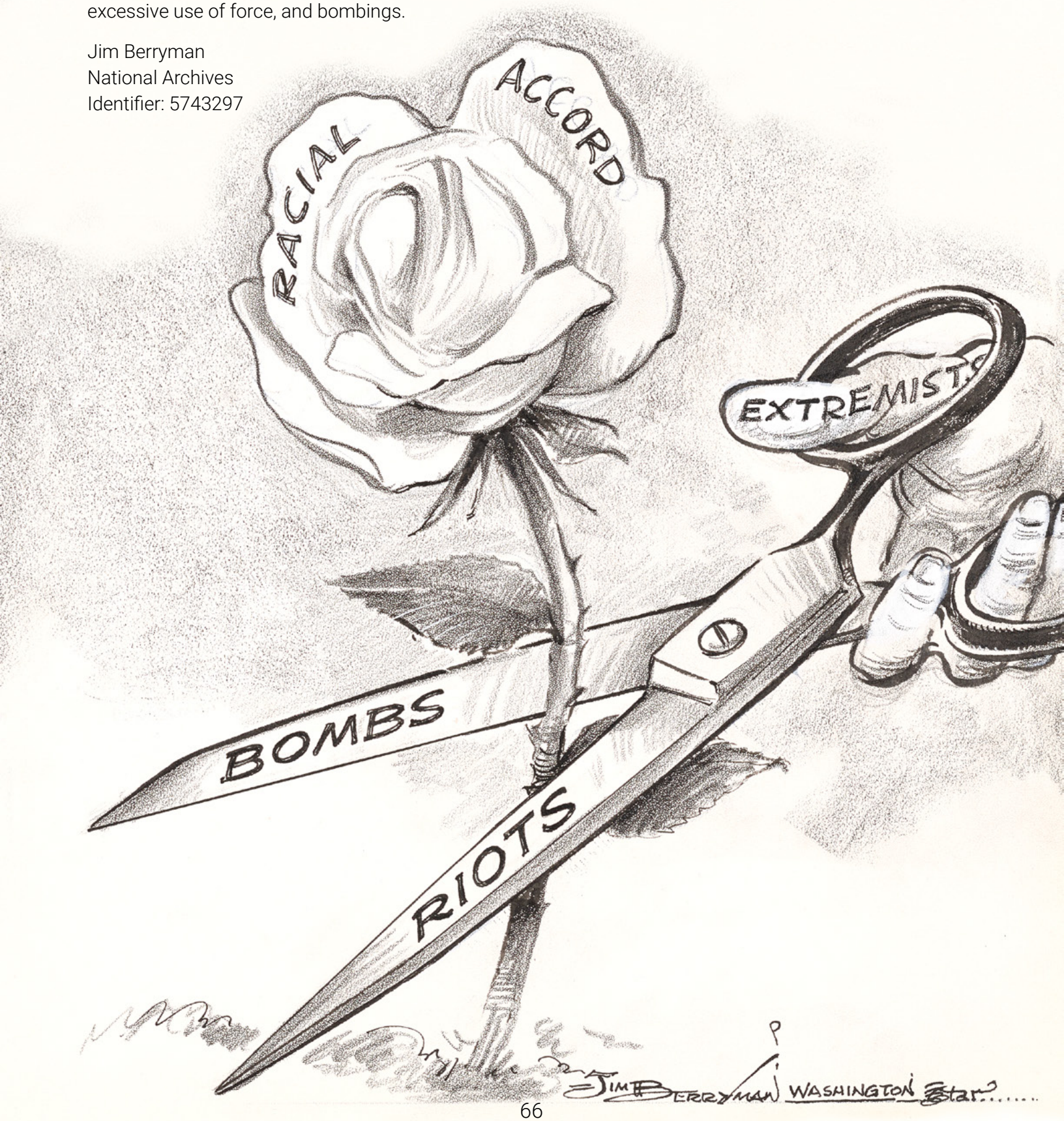


Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 59 A Flower Tries to Grow in Birmingham

May 14, 1963. Nonviolent civil rights protests in Birmingham, Alabama, met with mass arrests, excessive use of force, and bombings.

Jim Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 5743297

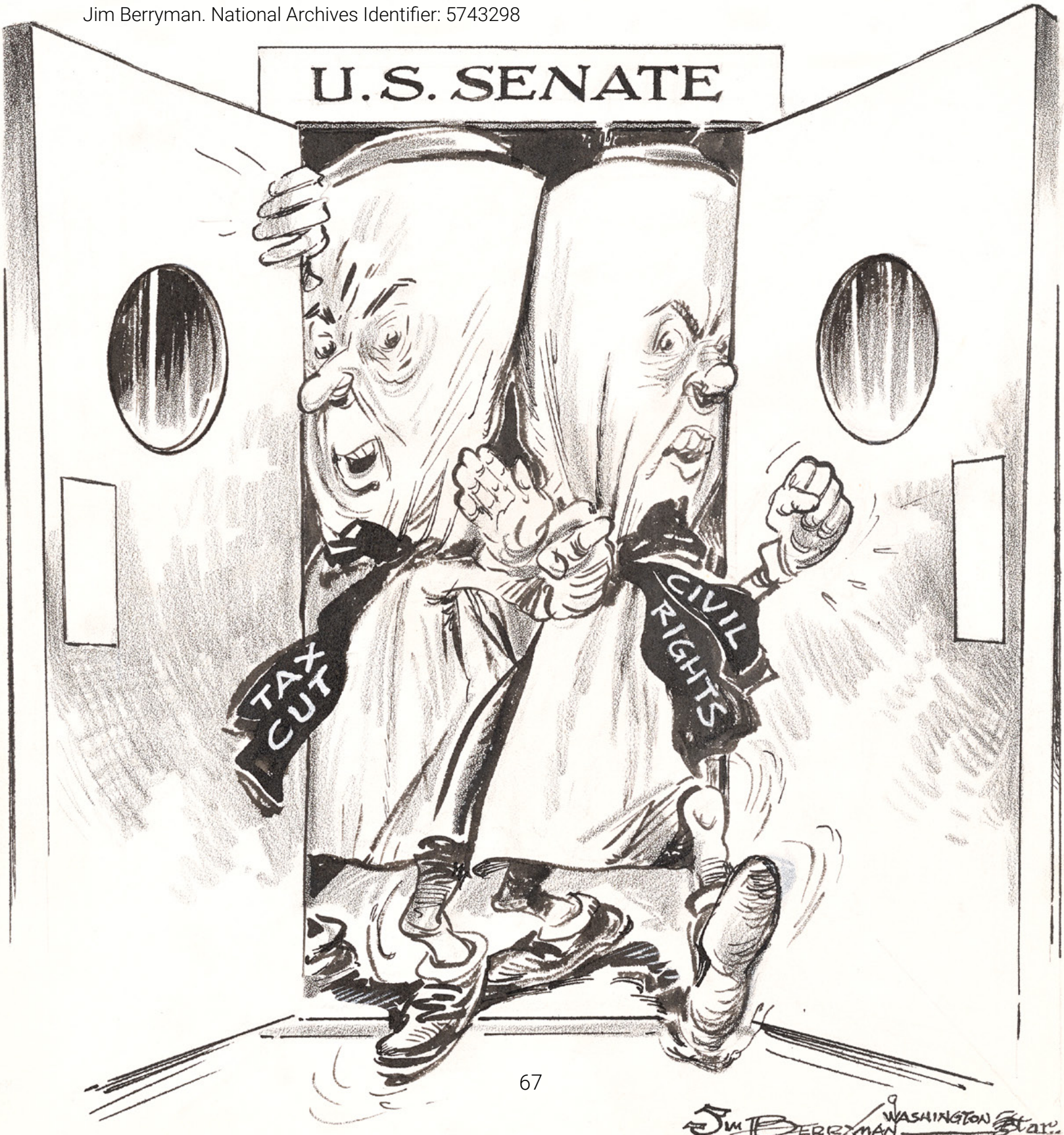


Civil Rights, 1956–63

Cartoon 60 Let Me Through!

September 29, 1963. Given the Senate's expected resistance to both a tax cut bill and a civil rights bill, advisers urged President Kennedy's administration to focus on one goal at a time.

Jim Berryman. National Archives Identifier: 5743298



7

SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORM AMERICA

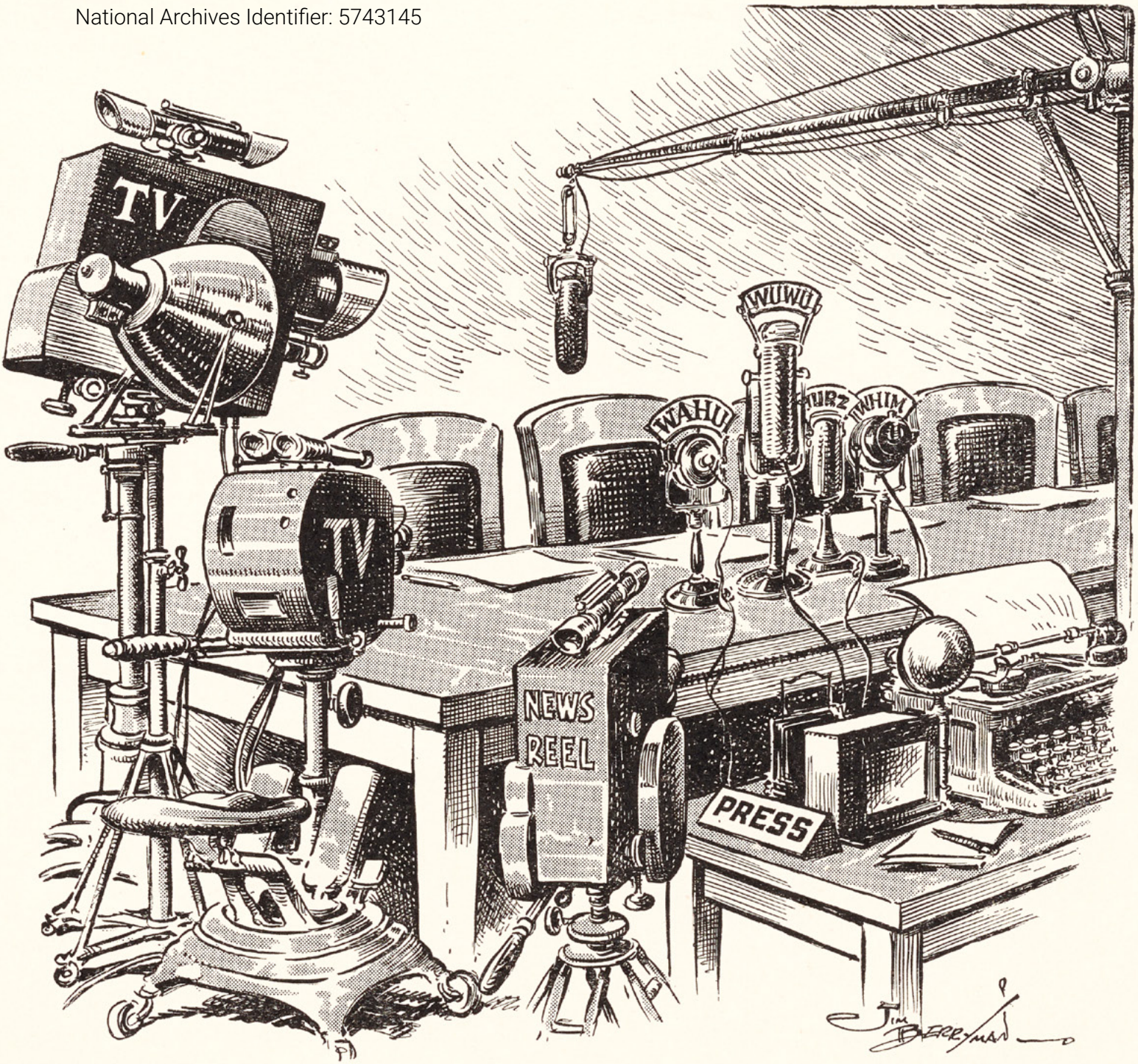
Innovations Yield New Hopes and Challenges, 1949 - 1963

The post-World War II decades brought major technological and scientific advances. Some innovations were clear wins. The development of a polio vaccine, for example, led quickly to almost complete elimination of the disease. Many innovations, however, brought mixed or uncertain results. For example, due in part to post-war technical improvements and increased production, TV ownership expanded dramatically by the early 1960s. This shift transformed how Americans entertained and informed themselves; it was bound to impact social and political life as well—whether for good or ill. Meanwhile, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. raced to explore space, capturing the imagination of earthlings everywhere. But space technology could be used for military ends, and the simultaneous development of ever more destructive atomic bombs was cause for alarm. Jim Berryman's cartoons document this era of new possibilities and new perils.

Cartoon 61 All Set for A Super-Secret Session in Washington

July 23, 1949. Television increasingly brought congressional hearings to the American public; some high-profile investigations attracted wide viewership.

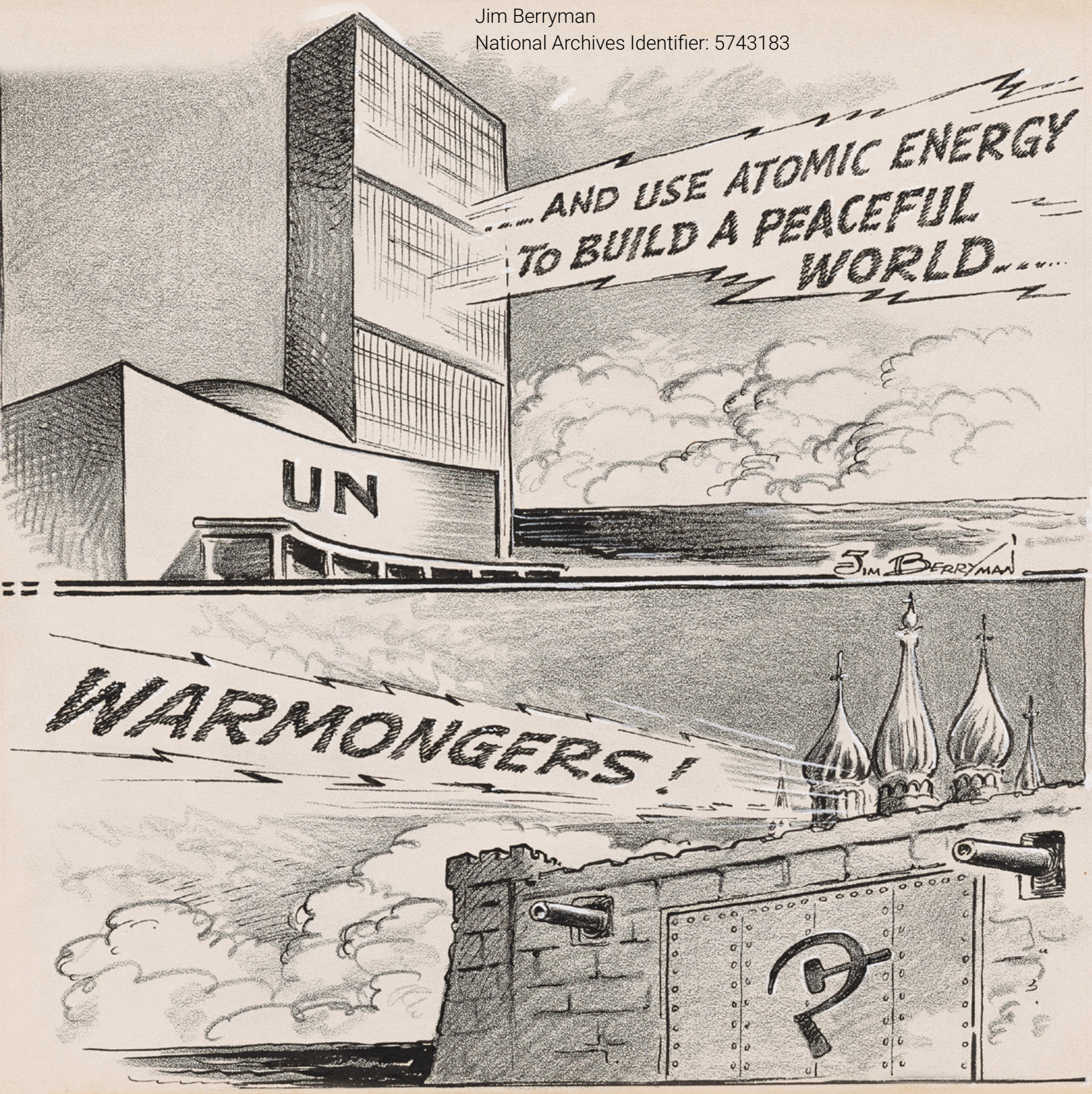
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743145



Cartoon 62 Strange Echo

December 11, 1953. The Soviet Union rejected President Dwight D. Eisenhower's proposed "Atoms for Peace" program, which called for countries to cooperate in pursuing nonmilitary uses for atomic energy.

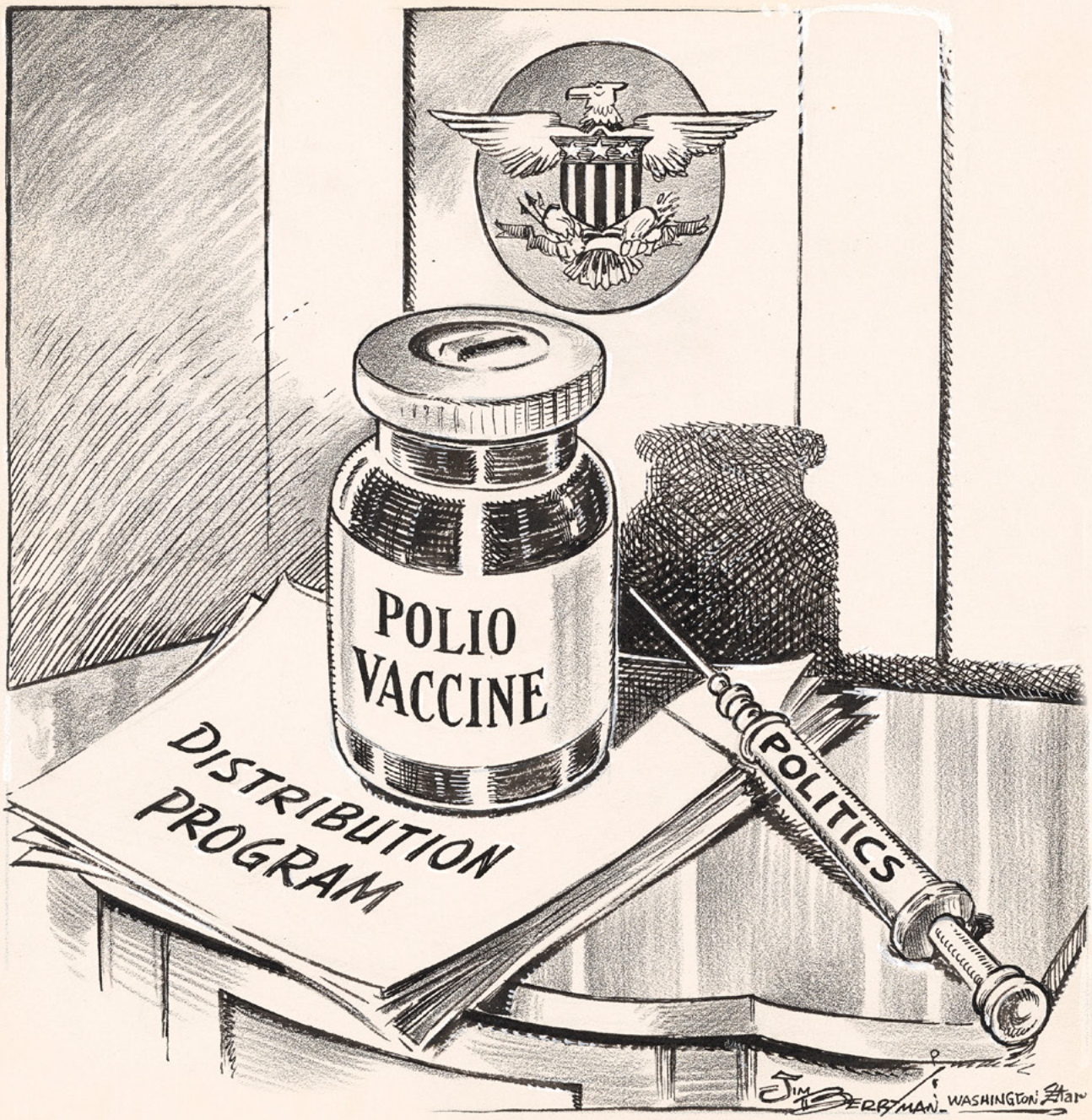
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743183



Cartoon 63 It's Time to Lay This Needle Aside!

May 18, 1955. A vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk held out the promise of a cure for polio, but distribution costs and other challenges had to be resolved first.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743204



Cartoon 64 A Fellow Just Isn't Safe ANYWHERE Anymore!

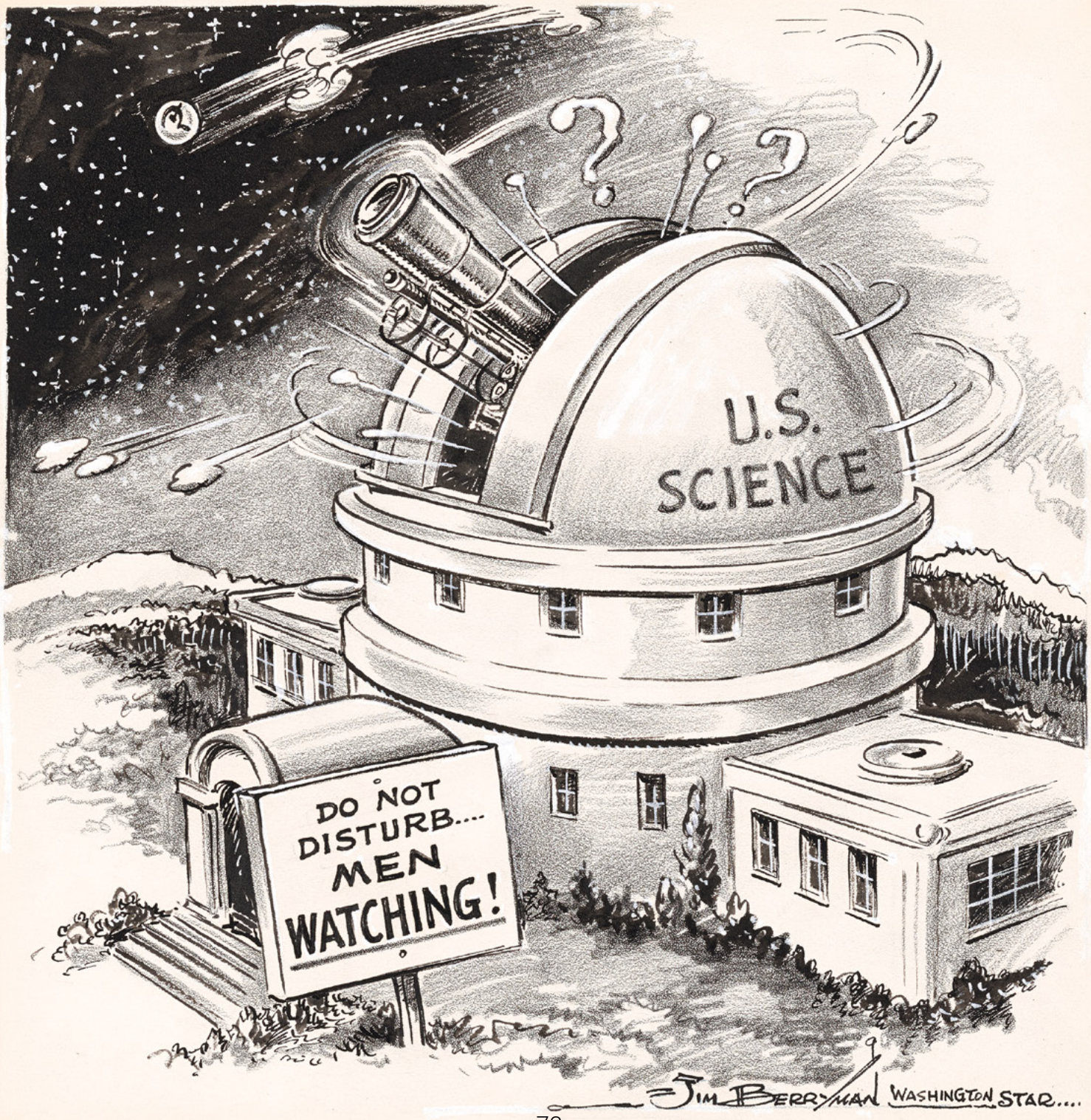
September 21, 1957. In an effort to contain the dangerous radioactive fallout released during nuclear testing, the U.S. began testing atomic weapons underground.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743250

Cartoon 65 Anybody Working?

October 6, 1957. This cartoon imagines U.S. scientists frantically scanning the skies two days after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first manmade satellite, into orbit.

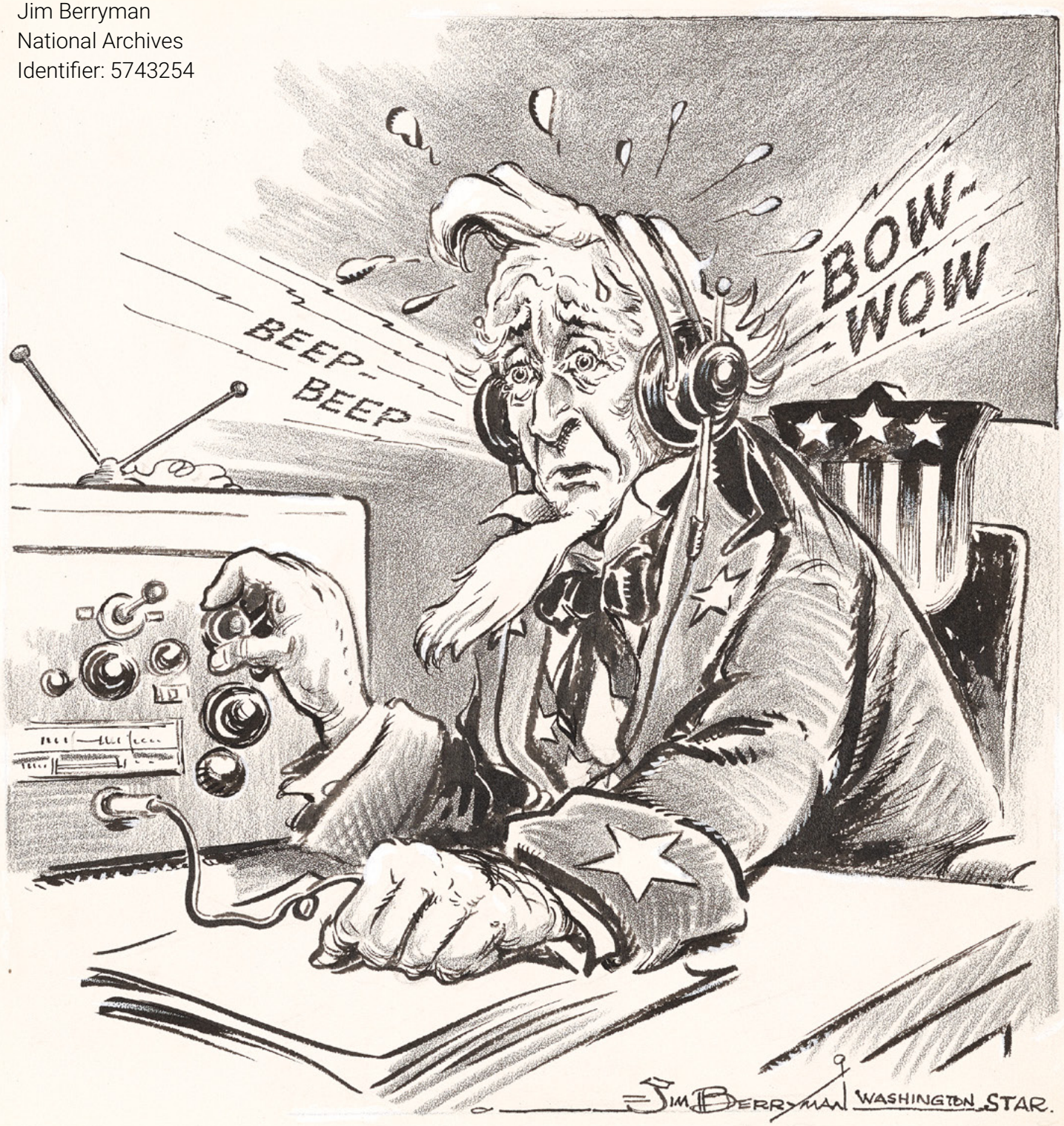
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743253



Cartoon 66 It Shouldn't Happen To a Dog!

November 5, 1957. Two days before this cartoon appeared, the Soviet Union launched its second satellite, Sputnik 2, which carried a dog named Laika.

Jim Berryman
National Archives
Identifier: 5743254



Cartoon 67 They'd Better Not be Planning on a Santa-Nik

November 10, 1957. In the wake of two successful satellite launches by the Soviets and growing concern about America's lag in the space race, U.S. military leaders announced a new Army effort to speed up the space program.

Jim Berryman. National Archives Identifier: 5743255

Cartoon 68 Whew!

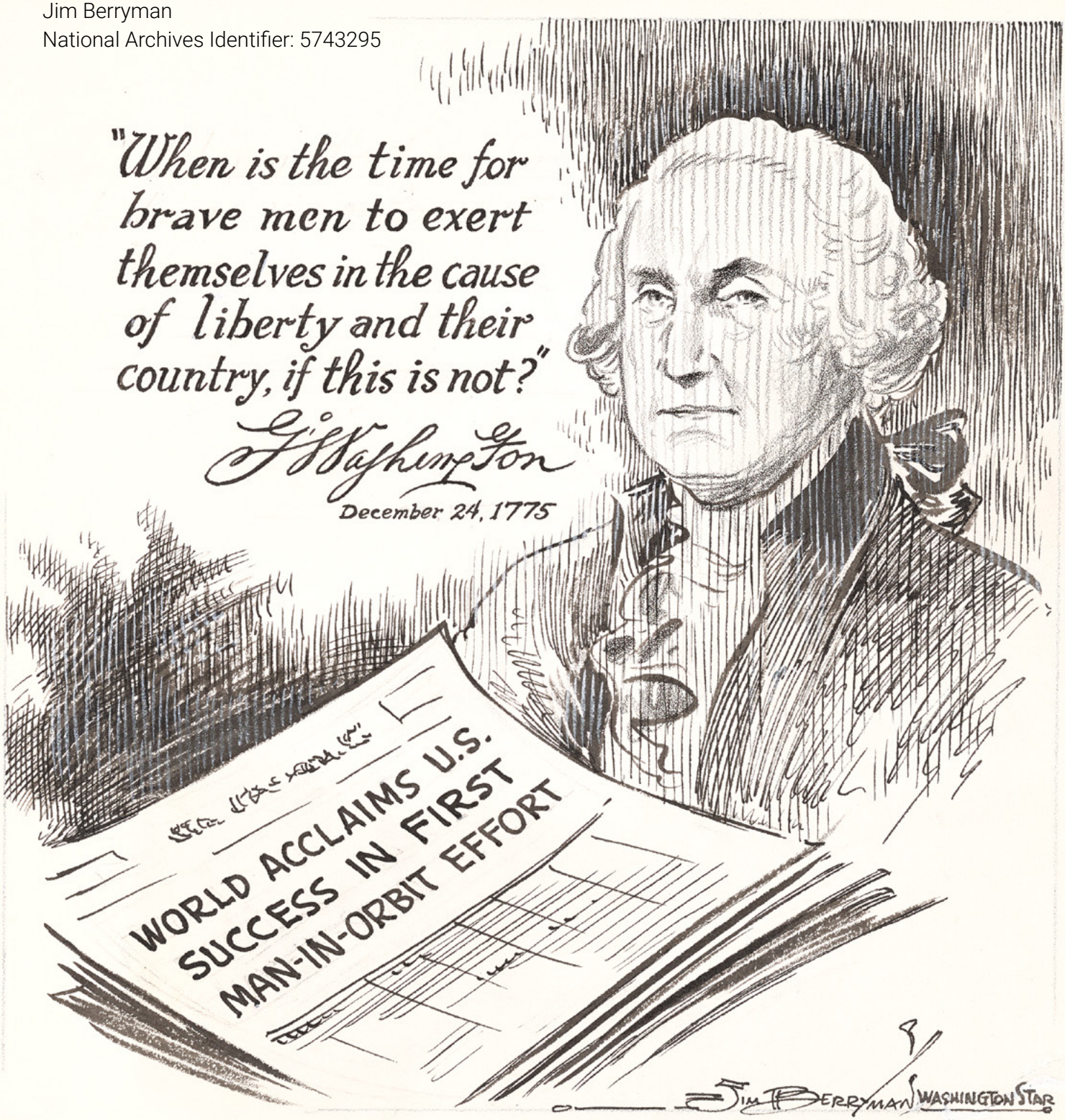
October 12, 1958. On October 11, the U.S. successfully launched a rocket, Pioneer I, demonstrating that it could hold its own in the space race with the Soviets.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743276

Cartoon 69 The Time is Still Now!

February 22, 1962. Astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, a feat that boosted national pride and reassured Americans that they were keeping up with their communist rival, the Soviet Union.

Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743295



Cartoon 70 I Just Didn't Realize I Was So Bad Off

October 14, 1963. This cartoon mocks a report by President John F. Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women describing the inequities faced by women and advocating for reforms.

Jim Berryman. National Archives Identifier: 5743302

WORKSHEET 1
Analyze a Cartoon

Meet the cartoon.

Quickly scan the cartoon. What do you notice first?

What is the title or caption?

Observe its parts.

WORDS	VISUALS
Are there labels, descriptions, thoughts, or dialogue?	List the people, objects, and places in the cartoon. List the actions or activities.

Try to make sense of it.

WORDS	VISUALS
Which words or phrases are the most significant?	Which of the visuals are symbols?
List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed.	What do they stand for?

Who drew this cartoon?

When is it from?

What was happening at the time in history it was created?

What is the message? List evidence from the cartoon or your knowledge about the cartoonist that led you to your conclusion.

Use it as historical evidence.

What did you find out from this cartoon that you might not learn anywhere else?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?

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WORKSHEET 2
Discuss Cartoons as Primary Sources

Discuss Cartoons as Primary Sources

Respond to the following statements and questions to discuss how political cartoons illustrate history.

1. Which cartoon best embodies the phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words"?

2. What insight does the cartoon you selected provide about an important issue facing America when the cartoon was published?

3. Which cartoon best presents a social issue?

4. Which cartoon best presents a political issue?

5. Which cartoon best presents a foreign policy issue?

Materials created by the National Archives and Records Administration are in the public domain.

Historical and Contextual Information about Each Cartoon

Chapter 1 • World War II

Cartoon 1

Chorus: But Adolf! What about that Other Nice Piece?

November 15, 1940
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743121

Adolf Hitler, his knife dripping with blood, serves up half the world to himself and his three allies. Italy is represented by Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, wearing his signature beret and an armband with the perched eagle of the Italian fascists. Standing in for Japan is Emperor Hirohito, bedecked with his imperial sword. The Soviet Union is represented by its leader, General Secretary Joseph Stalin. The four countries were bound together as the Axis Powers after a series of formal alliances. Would Hitler content himself with reclaiming Germany's World War I territorial losses and reversing restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles? Or did he hunger for more? By the time this cartoon appeared, Germany and its allies seemed insatiable. In Berryman's cartoon, a chorus of Hitler's dinner guests asks about the fate of the rest of the world.

Cartoon 2

Lady Godiva Rides Again through Coventry's Streets

November 17, 1940
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743122

Having conquered most of western Europe by the summer of 1940, Hitler set his sights on Great Britain. Throughout the summer and fall of 1940, the German air force rained bombs down on Britain, while the Royal Air Force fought back. The Battle of Britain was the first significant military campaign fought entirely with air

power. Starting in September, the Germans launched a blistering series of attacks, known as the Blitz, on towns and cities. On November 14, three days before Jim Berryman drew this cartoon, these bombings devastated the city of Coventry and left its medieval cathedral in ruins. Arising out of the ashes in this cartoon is Lady Godiva on horseback. According to a legend widely disputed by historians, Lady Godiva, an 11th-century English noblewoman, once rode through Coventry naked in an effort to convince her husband to ease taxation on the people. Lady Godiva and her husband provided financial support to numerous monasteries and churches in Coventry and elsewhere. Berryman labelled his Godiva figure "civilization," suggesting perhaps that the forces of civilization would come to the rescue this time around. In the end, Britain's Royal Air Force prevailed in the Battle of Britain, a crucial victory since it proved that Germany was not invincible. To this day, part of the ruin of Coventry's cathedral has been left in place as an ongoing reminder of the devastation wrought by war.

Cartoon 3

There is Only One Answer — Yes!

November 26, 1940
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012222

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.

Cartoon 4

WOOSH

March 16, 1941
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012229

On March 11, 1941, President Roosevelt signed into law the lend-lease program, which enabled the U.S. to extend credit to cash-strapped countries if U.S. national security were at stake. The next day, Roosevelt called for a bill to allocate a staggering 7 billion federal dollars for Great Britain's fight against the Nazis. The bill was rushed through the usual process of consideration in the Committee on Appropriations (a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives). By the time Berryman drew this cartoon, the bill was already scheduled for a final vote in the House. Here, the seated figure representing the House barely sees the 7 billion whooshing out the window. Trying to reassure him are three prominent congressmen: Edward Taylor, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations; Clifton Woodrum, another committee member and supporter of the bill; and Samuel Rayburn, the Speaker of the House. The bill passed in the House three days later and was signed into law before the month's end.

Cartoon 5

That Old Russian Story Again

January 12, 1942
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012249

On June 22, 1941, Germany invaded Russia, which quickly lost staggering numbers of troops, tanks, and planes. By fall, German troops had reached the outskirts of major Russian cities and seemed on the brink of total victory. Then came winter. The Germans were completely unprepared. Their military offensive stalled, giving the Russians time to regroup and defend themselves. In this cartoon, Hitler and his ally, Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, are making a hasty retreat while hungry wolves close in on them. Berryman imagines Hitler being ready to throw Mussolini to the wolves; perhaps his ally is more a hindrance than a help. "That old Russian story again" probably refers to an earlier retreat by a different invader of Russia: French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1812, also unable to withstand Russia's harsh winter, Napoleon's forces had fled; it was a turning point in that earlier war. Berryman predicts a similar outcome this time around.

Cartoon 6

Low Tide Now

May 7, 1942
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012265

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 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.

Cartoon 7

Five Years of Dragon-Swallowing and No End in Sight

July 7, 1942
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743126

Hoping to expand its Asian empire, Japan pushed into China in the 1930s. This cartoon was published on the five-year anniversary of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, a 1937 clash between Japanese and Chinese armed forces. That incident marked the beginning of an ongoing conflict known as the Sino-Japanese War. Japan won some battles but bogged down in its effort to conquer China. After the U.S. declared war on Japan, the Sino-Japanese War became part of World War II. At the time this cartoon appeared, the U.S. was aiding the Chinese by flying in supplies. Here, Japan (represented perhaps by Emperor Hirohito with his imperial sword) is struggling mightily to swallow "The China Incident" (represented by a dragon). Has Hirohito bit off more than he can chew?

Cartoon 8

Right in der Fuhrer's Face

January 28, 1943
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012275

In 1942, the U.S. and Great Britain launched a major military campaign in North Africa. They aimed to push back the Germans and gain access to Europe from the south. Berryman's cartoon depicts the Casablanca Conference, a series of meetings between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Casablanca, Morocco, in January of 1943, even as heavy fighting continued in nearby North African countries. At Casablanca, Roosevelt and Churchill vowed to accept only "unconditional surrender," an announcement that emphasized the Allies' unity. (Their declaration was an extension of the 1941 Atlantic Charter, in which they agreed on the principles that would shape the postwar world.) Meeting so close to the fighting—right in Hitler's face—allowed the Allied leaders to project power. Berryman's caption here echoes the title of both a popular song and a propaganda film of that same year: "Der Fuehrer's Face." The film, originally entitled "Donald Duck in Nutzi Land," won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Subject.

Cartoon 9

Lafayette We Are Here Again

June 7, 1944
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743133

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. Clifford 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 Eurpoe 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.

Cartoon 10

Lest We Forget

June 6, 1945
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012308

This cartoon was published on the one-year anniversary of D-Day, the day the Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, to begin the military campaign that would ultimately liberate Western Europe from Nazi Germany. Thousands of men died during the Battle of Normandy, which was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Berryman's cartoon recalls the destruction and loss of life on those beaches and honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this pivotal battle. The words hovering in the sky are from Rudyard Kipling's famous poem "Recessional," which juxtaposes the temporary nature of empire with the permanence of God. About a month before this D-Day anniversary, the war in Europe officially ended when Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Chapter 2 • World War II and Life in the U.S.

Cartoon 11

Gee! Have I Got to Take that One Too?

January 1, 1941
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743125

On New Year's Day, 1941, the day this cartoon was published, four major college football games were scheduled to take place: the Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Sugar Bowl, and Orange Bowl. The front page of the newspaper advertised the times at which each would be broadcast on the radio. At the same time, across the Atlantic Ocean, more serious matters demanded attention: Germany continued to rain bombs down on a struggling Great Britain. The U.S. was torn between a desire not to become entangled in the war (a policy known as nonintervention) and a dawning awareness that the Allies needed help. Berryman represents America as a baby (a traditional symbol of the new year) picking up a football helmet but glancing in alarm at Europe. Would the war raging there boil over? Breaking into a sweat, the baby wonders if it is only a matter of time before he will have to put on a soldier's helmet as well.

Cartoon 12

Something Seems to be Holding Me Back

January 31, 1941
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012227

America's national defense industry (the companies that make planes, ships, weapons, and other essential war goods) is represented in this cartoon by a figure who is half Uncle Sam and half the Greek god Hermes (with his winged feet and signature staff). Could America achieve its goal to be the "arsenal of democracy" if the ball-and-chain of labor strikes dragged down its defense industry? In a radio "fireside chat" about a month before this cartoon was published, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for labor and management to resolve differences without strikes in order to maintain steady wartime production. Roosevelt believed this could be accomplished without changing worker protection laws, but some people thought only new laws banning strikes, relaxing labor protections, or restricting labor unions' power could guarantee adequate production. Berryman depicts Congress (the old man with the hammer and chisel) holding the tools necessary to free up the national defense industry.

Cartoon 13

The Sugar-Coated Pills

May 4, 1941
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012238

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. Berryman's cartoon depicts new taxes as a big pill for the tax-payer to swallow.

Cartoon 14

Public Enemies

February 22, 1942
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012255

With the nation at war, Uncle Sam tells the Teddy Bear to forget about the villains of the past: John Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Arthur Barker, Alvin Karpis, and "Baby Face" Nelson—all famous gangsters from the 1930s, each at one time designated "Public Enemy No. 1" (a term the F.B.I. and other authorities assigned to suspects considered most threatening to society). A piker is someone who does things in a small way. Uncle Sam implies that the country now faces larger but less clearly defined threats: nay-sayers, non-interventionists, morale-destroyers, and would-be traitors. Three days before this cartoon was published, President Franklin Roosevelt had signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the military to remove from strategic parts of the country anyone considered suspect. On the day this cartoon appeared, the newspaper reported the arrest of 500 Japanese, German, and Italian "enemy aliens." By the war's end, 117,000 people of Japanese descent, many of them American citizens, would be removed from their homes and held in internment camps. A smaller number of people of German and Italian ancestry were also interned.

Cartoon 15

Scorch the Comforts, Uncle

March 12, 1942
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012255

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.

Cartoon 16

David, Goliath and the Taxpayer

April 29, 1942
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012264

During World War II, manufacturers focused on producing war goods, which made consumer goods scarce. That scarcity drove up prices, increasing the overall cost of living. By the spring of 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his advisers were concerned about maintaining a reasonable cost of living while funding wartime production. The day before this cartoon was published, Roosevelt gave a "fireside chat" radio address in which he announced a new seven-point economic plan that included a tax increase on all Americans. In this cartoon, Berryman draws on a biblical story in which David, armed only with a slingshot, defeats the gigantic warrior Goliath. The story has come to refer generally to any confrontation between mismatched rivals—especially when the underdog unexpectedly prevails. Here, President Roosevelt is David, the high cost of living is Goliath, and the American taxpayer is the stone thrown at Goliath.

Cartoon 17

Rubber Shortage

May 28, 1942
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012266

After Japan conquered the rubber-producing countries of Asia in early 1942, the U.S. faced a serious scarcity of rubber, a raw material needed for tires and other war goods. In this cartoon, Berryman shows the leaders who were working feverishly to fix the problem, symbolized here by a broken-down car. In the driver's seat is Senator Harry Truman, the chairman of a Senate committee investigating national defense production problems. Two days before this cartoon was published, that committee had released a report on the complexities of the rubber shortage. Pictured beside Truman are three others: Donald Nelson, the chairman of the War Production Board; Jesse Jones, the Secretary of Commerce; and Leon Henderson, the head of the Office of Price Administration. The day before this cartoon was published, President Franklin Roosevelt announced that he expected an artificial form of rubber to be available soon.

Cartoon 18

Rising Prices

May 22, 1943
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012287

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, 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.

Cartoon 19

Better than a Wreath

May 30, 1943
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743127

This cartoon appeared in the sports section of the *Evening Star* on May 30, 1943—Memorial Day, when we remember those who died while serving in the armed forces. The title, "Better than a wreath," refers to the practice of laying wreaths or flags at the graves of veterans on that holiday. Here, Berryman suggests a different way of honoring those who fought and died: by purchasing war bonds. The government used the funds invested by Americans in war bonds to pay for the production of war goods: weapons, ammunition, tanks, planes, and other essentials. The sports page on which this cartoon appeared reported that various college and professional athletes were leaving their teams in order to fight in the war. The sports fan pictured here pays homage to the athletes who sacrificed their lives as soldiers and pledges to do his part by buying war bonds.

Cartoon 20

I Just Can't Stand Secrets

June 09, 1944
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743134

Congress debated when to investigate the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Some Republicans called for a speedy investigation and immediate court-martial (military trial) of senior commanding officers. However, Democrats wanted to wait, arguing that an immediate investigation and trial would hurt the war effort by revealing sensitive information and pulling military witnesses away from the fight. The day before this cartoon appeared, Congress finally passed a compromise bill calling for an investigation and establishing December 7, 1944, as a new deadline for the prosecution of any military leaders charged with negligence. This cartoon alludes to the Greek myth of Pandora's box, in which Pandora opens a container and inadvertently releases an assortment of evils. Here, the elephant (symbolizing the "Grand Old Party," or Republican Party) is depicted as Pandora.

Chapter 3 • Post War Issues

Cartoon 21

The World Waits at Yalta

February 9, 1945
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012295

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, Berryman depicts a war-weary world anxiously listening in on the Yalta talks.

Cartoon 22

Postwar Navy

September 11, 1945
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012314

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing over 100,000 people. On August 15, Japan announced its surrender, ending the war. Among the tasks the U.S. faced next was scaling the military to a size and strength suitable for peacetime. But what sort of military did the U.S. need in a "peacetime" that included nuclear weapons? Military leaders, together with Congress, had to figure this out. In this cartoon, the seated figure is Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. Standing are Senator David Walsh (chairman of the U.S. Senate's Committee on Naval Affairs) and Representative Carl Vinson (chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Naval Affairs). The day before this cartoon appeared, Walsh and Vinson had announced plans for a fleet of 1,079 ships, the number requested by the Navy. They were postponing a final decision, however, until after thorough study, recognizing that new weapons of war had changed the military landscape.

Cartoon 23

FILL 'R UP!

August 17, 1945
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012312.

On August 15, 1945, Japan announced its surrender, bringing World War II to a close. In this cartoon, published two days later, 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.

Cartoon 24

Health Insurance

November 21, 1945
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012319

Although legislation for government-sponsored health insurance was first proposed in the 1930s, health insurance as a benefit provided by employers had its roots in the World War II era. During the war, government wage controls limited employers' ability to pay people more. Some employers, eager for some other way to attract workers in a tight labor market, started to offer health insurance. It proved to be a popular benefit. Two days before this cartoon was published, President Harry Truman pressed Congress for a program that would insure everybody. Berryman's cartoon refers to this development and also draws attention to the "aches and pains" afflicting the nation in the postwar period. One challenge was reconversion: switching from the production of war goods back to the production of consumer goods. Another problem was strife between industry and labor unions. In the context of so many postwar "wounds," Truman's plan for universal health care coverage was rejected by Congress.

Cartoon 25

Reorganization of Congress

July 28, 1946
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 306100

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 was the first major effort to make Congress's operations more efficient and effective. The Act reduced the number of congressional committees and matched them more closely with relevant issues. The reorganization also standardized Congress's schedule, reassigned certain tasks to other agencies, and provided additional skilled professionals to help Congress do its work. Depicted in this cartoon are the leaders most instrumental in getting the Act passed: Senator Alben Barkley (the Majority Leader of the Senate) and Representative Samuel Rayburn (the Speaker of the House of Representatives). John Q. Public (an average citizen) hints at the public's own "reorganization plan." Here Berryman is referring to the upcoming elections, when the people would register their verdict on Congress's work. In the 1946 election, the Republicans took control of the House and Senate, ending a long period of Democratic dominance.

Cartoon 26

Path to Peace?

August 27, 1946
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012362

Berryman drew this cartoon when communists and non-communists were contending for control of Greece. Although the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. had worked together to defeat Nazi Germany in World War II, after the war it was difficult for the two countries to stay on a path that would lead to a peaceful, secure Europe. With their economies and political systems weakened by war, countries across Europe and Asia were vulnerable. The U.S.S.R. used this situation to expand its influence. Led by General Secretary Joseph Stalin, the U.S.S.R. first sought political control of the countries on its border in Eastern Europe. Some people thought it was reasonable for the Russians to want a buffer zone of friendly countries. Others suspected Stalin's motives and feared the spread of communism, an ideology committed to the end of capitalism. Distrust grew once Stalin started to expand Soviet influence westward into central Europe and the Balkans and southward into the Middle East. In this cartoon, Stalin is shown veering off the path of peace with Greece as his "catch."

Cartoon 27

One at a Time?

November 19, 1947
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743141

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.

Cartoon 28

Maybe Turnabout is Fair Play

November 20, 1947
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012412

The transition from a wartime economy to a peacetime economy brought conflict between business and organized labor. A wave of strikes followed. In response, Congress proposed the Taft-Hartley Act. It prohibited certain kinds of strikes, required a "cooling off" period before a strike, and shifted the power balance to favor business. Labor leaders called Taft-Hartley a "slave-labor" bill because it took power from unions. President Harry Truman vetoed the bill, but Congress overrode his veto, and in June, 1947, Taft-Hartley became law. When Berryman drew this cartoon, Truman was in the midst of another battle with Congress. This second dispute was about how to curb inflation. Truman's plan included price and wage controls that some members of Congress thought would give the President too much power—and in effect "enslave" private enterprise. In the end, Congress passed an anti-inflation bill that ignored most of Truman's ideas. Displeased but convinced he would get nothing better, Truman signed the bill in December of 1947.

Cartoon 29

What's the Use of Going Through with the Election?

October 19, 1948
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 306150

This cartoon was published two weeks before the 1948 election. President Harry Truman, a Democrat, was widely expected to lose to his Republican challenger, Thomas Dewey. However, all the polls Berryman echoes in this cartoon proved to be wrong: Truman defeated Dewey in one of the biggest upsets in presidential election history. The press consistently misjudged the situation. The *Chicago Tribune* went so far as to print on its front page the false headline "Dewey Defeats Truman." Truman benefited from a spirited "whistle-stop" campaign, in which he traveled the country by train and spoke directly to the people. His victory was considered all the more remarkable because some Democratic votes flowed to third-party candidates: Henry Wallace of the Progressive Party and Strom Thurmond of the States' Rights Democratic Party (or Dixiecrats). In the congressional elections, Democrats also prevailed, regaining control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Cartoon 30

What's He Riding this Time Around

May 27, 1948
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012423

Both Jews and Arabs claim historical rights to Palestine. After the Holocaust, Jewish migration to the area increased. Zionism, a movement to support the re-establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, grew. President Harry Truman was sympathetic to the plight of Jewish refugees. At the same time, his administration worried about inflaming Palestinian Arabs, who rejected Jewish claims on the territory. Various solutions were proposed, but none won universal support. In 1947, the United Nations drew up a plan to partition Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states, with an international zone around Jerusalem. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared itself an independent state, and Truman recognized it as a legitimate government. Armed conflict—the first Arab-Israeli war—erupted. In this cartoon, Berryman critiques Truman's stance on Palestine, implying that he shifted from one position or strategy to another—without ever making progress.

Chapter 4 • The Cold War: An Era of Rising Tensions

Cartoon 31

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

May 20, 1948
Clifford K. Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 6012422

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.

Cartoon 32

I Like Ike!

November 5, 1952
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743170

Published the day after the 1952 presidential election, this cartoon shows a vote being cast for Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower. He won in a landslide, receiving 29 million votes, the highest vote total up to that point. Ike's sweeping victory was seen as a rejection of President Harry S. Truman's involvement in the Korean War. The war was so unpopular that Truman did not seek reelection; instead, the Democratic Party made Adlai Stevenson its candidate. But voters liked Ike. His popularity stemmed from his service as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II and his promise to resolve the Korean conflict. His Republican victory also reflected a general desire for change after two decades of Democratic presidents.

Cartoon 33

It's is all Yours

February 3, 1953
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743173

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.

Cartoon 34

They Really Had Me Worried

June 23, 1953
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743179

The Korean War (between communist North Korea and non-communist South Korea and its allies) had been raging for almost three years, and at long last United Nations talks of a truce were progressing. But even as the end was in sight South Korean President Syngman Rhee thought the U.N. was giving up too much to the communists and threw a few monkey wrenches into the negotiations. He declared that South Korea would continue fighting on its own. He also angered the North Koreans by releasing 27,000 non-communist North Korean prisoners. Rhee's obstructions were enough to make the war-weary world break into a sweat. Ultimately, however, British and American allies brought Rhee back into line with the U.N. position. About a month after this cartoon was published, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, effectively ending the war.

Cartoon 35

It's No Secret...We've Just Been Sitting on It!

January 11, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743196

From 1953 to 1955, the U.S. Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, conducted an investigation into communism in the U.S. Army. As part of that investigation, Irving Peress, an army dentist, was accused of being a communist. He refused to admit wrongdoing, though some evidence suggested he was sympathetic to communism. McCarthy asserted that the Army wrongfully promoted Peress and wrongfully granted him an honorable discharge. This cartoon appeared a day after McCarthy's aide, Roy Cohn, accused Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens of covering up the Peress situation. Had Stevens been in effect sitting on the evidence? Stevens denied doing so but resigned soon afterwards. Over the course of the investigations into the Army, many Americans came to feel that McCarthy's communist-hunting amounted to unsubstantiated character assassination; public approval of McCarthy dropped sharply after a series of televised hearings in 1954. A month before this cartoon appeared, the Senate had formally "condemned" McCarthy for his behavior.

Cartoon 36

Sounds Like the Line I Fell for Ten Years Ago

February 20, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743199

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. (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.

Cartoon 37

Second Curtain

September 9, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743209

When World War II ended, the United Nations divided Germany into occupied zones. The American, French, and British occupational zones made up West Germany; the Soviet zone was known as East Germany. West Germany grew prosperous, but East Germany struggled economically. It lay behind the "Iron Curtain": the fortified line separating capitalist Western Europe from communist Eastern Europe. When this cartoon was published in 1955, Konrad Adenauer, the Chancellor of West Germany, was trying to negotiate a reuniting of all the zones of Germany. But the Soviets, who had suffered huge losses during World War II, feared the potential economic and military might of a united Germany. The U.S. favored reunification but was sensitive to Soviet opposition. Hoping to reduce tension, the U.S. left the negotiations to Adenauer, who could not convince the Soviets to change their view. Germany remained divided until 1991.

Cartoon 38

I've heard and seen so much...For one so young

September 20, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743210

The creation of the United Nations, an international organization committed to maintaining world peace and security, was first proposed at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference near the end of World War II. Officially established in 1945, the U.N. worked busily from day one to help resolve conflicts around the world. In 1947, the U.N. mediated a border dispute between Italy and Yugoslavia. The following year, U.N. troops helped settle an Arab-Israeli conflict. From 1950 to 1953, the organization worked to lower the intensity of the Korean and Indo-Pakistani wars. The U.N. also coordinated international efforts to reduce disease, malnutrition, and illiteracy. In this cartoon, the U.N. looks more weary than happy on the occasion of its 10th birthday. Even though it was a young organization, it was bearing a heavy burden.

Cartoon 39

I thought I had an appointment

November 1, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743214

The shouting in this cartoon concerns the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. When the state of Israel was created in Palestine in 1947, Arab residents resisted the use of their land for a Jewish homeland. Other countries quickly became involved in the dispute. Arab nations armed the Palestinians, while the U.S. and other Western powers supported Israel. In 1955, the U.N. became alarmed that a Soviet ally, Czechoslovakia, was selling arms to Egypt, an ally of the Palestinians. Israel responded by calling for arms from its own allies. The U.S. press blamed the growing conflict on Soviet meddling in the region. In the context of fierce Cold War rivalries, this regional conflict was in danger of expanding into a larger war. The U.N. called on the U.S., Britain, and France to take the lead in lowering tensions. In this cartoon, World Peace waits anxiously outside a meeting of foreign ministers arguing about the matter.

Cartoon 40

Eclipse

November 14, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743217

In 1955, the leaders of the major postwar powers (the U.S., Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union) held a series of meetings known as the Geneva Summit. The discussion topics included reunifying Germany, establishing new European economic links, and reducing tensions generally. German reunification was the central goal of the U.S. and its allies but also a major sticking point for the Soviet Union. To ease Soviet concerns about a powerful united Germany, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles proposed a new military security pact, coupled with a disarmament agreement. By the time this cartoon was published, however, Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov had rejected these ideas. A hammer-and-sickle cloud hangs over the bright, hopeful "Spirit of Geneva." In the end, the Summit offered only a brief break from Cold War tensions.

Chapter 5 • The Cold War: An Era of Standoffs

Cartoon 41

A Test He can't Abandon!

October 30, 1956
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743235

In 1956, the Democratic candidate for President, Adlai Stevenson, made the banning of hydrogen bombs a central issue of his campaign. Stevenson declared universal disarmament the "first order of business in the world today." He argued that bomb testing endangered public health, that the U.S. already had plenty of atomic weapons, and that an international test ban treaty could work. However, the issue never caught on with the American public. This cartoon was published on the day the Republican candidate, Dwight D. Eisenhower, wrapped up his campaign by calling Stevenson's plan a "design for disaster" that would leave the country unprotected. Berryman shows Stevenson barely holding on to the H-bomb issue, like a rodeo rider struggling to control a bull. In the end, Stevenson was thrown off: Eisenhower beat him in a landslide.

Cartoon 42

This Wouldn't Stand Inspection!

December 7, 1956
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743239

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).

Cartoon 43

Backing it Up

May 6, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743241

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. The Soviets objected to the presence of nuclear weapons in Europe, but by the time this cartoon was published NATO was determined to maintain a defense arsenal that included both nuclear and conventional weapons.

Cartoon 44

You Stir I'll Season

July 20, 1958
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743266

When Berryman drew this cartoon, Arab nationalism (the idea that Arab people across the Middle East should unite as a political force) was on the rise. Gamel Abdel Nasser, the President of Egypt, translated this ideology into action. In 1956, his government claimed the Suez Canal and thwarted a non-Arab retaliation. In early 1958, he created the United Arab Republic by linking Egypt and Syria. Later that same year, a nationalist uprising inspired by Nasser overthrew Iraq's King Faisel and destabilized Jordan and Lebanon. U.S. forces landed in Lebanon; British forces arrived in Jordan. Nasser asked for and received Soviet help in the form of arms and supplies. Arab nationalism, a force resisting Western control and backed by the Soviets, had disrupted the old status quo in the Middle East. Many people worried that this simmering pot would boil over into global war.

Cartoon 45

The Guns are Quiet but Still Loaded

October 7, 1958
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743274

The communist takeover of China in 1949 roiled U.S. politics. Republicans accused Democratic leaders of being weak and therefore "losing China." Tensions returned in 1958 when communist China shelled nationalist Chinese troops on Quemoy, an island a few miles off the coast of mainland China. U.S. Secretary of Defense John Foster Dulles refused to support a nationalist invasion of mainland China. Instead, he called for a cease fire and the withdrawal of the nationalists. This response signaled a shift in U.S. policy. Previously, the U.S. had insisted that the nationalists were the only legitimate government of China, but Dulles's statement indicated that the Republican leadership was willing to accept the reality of "two Chinas": communist China on the mainland, and the nationalist Republic of China on Taiwan. In the face of communist aggression, President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Republican administration struggled to avoid war.

Cartoon 46

In English or Spanish It Means What It Says

November 3, 1960
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743286

Fidel Castro, a communist revolutionary, became the Prime Minister of Cuba in 1959. When Berryman drew this cartoon, Cuban-American relations were particularly tense. Castro had been receiving arms from the Soviet Union and accusing the U.S. of planning to overthrow his government. In the lead-up to the 1960 presidential election, the Democratic and Republican candidates, John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon, both expressed strong opposition to the Castro regime. On October 19, the press reported rumors that Cuba might try to disrupt the election by attacking the American naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. (The base was held by the U.S. under the terms of a 1903 lease agreement disputed by the Cuban government.) The U.S. responded by increasing security at the base and telling Castro to back off. This cartoon appeared the very day President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned Castro that the U.S. would defend its base.

Cartoon 47

I Don't Think I Can Make It

August 1, 1961
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743293

By the summer of 1961, the U.S. was enmeshed in a complex, dangerous rivalry with the Soviet Union. The arms race, the space race, regional conflicts, and disagreement over the future of Germany all seemed to be bringing the world to the brink of another global war. On August 1, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev added another dimension to the competition by issuing a new blueprint for the Soviet Union's economic development. This new plan emphasized the kind of light industry that produces consumer goods and was meant to improve Russians' standard of living. But this cartoon shows the Russian people weighed down by the communist system. Clearly Berryman does not expect a Soviet utopia anytime soon. In 1956, Khrushchev had declared that the Soviet Union would "bury" the West; the shovel in the hand of Berryman's Russian may be a sly reference back to that famous boast.

Cartoon 48

Timely Advice...Though Given a Century Ago!

February 12, 1962
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743294

In 1956, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev reportedly warned Western diplomats that history was on the Soviets' side, declaring "We will bury you." As the Cold War progressed, the U.S. and the Soviet Union became entrenched in a multi-dimensional rivalry. This cartoon was published the day Khrushchev proposed changing the format of a planned disarmament conference from a meeting of diplomats to a summit between the countries' leaders. President John F. Kennedy did not welcome the offer, however, preferring a diplomatic process of negotiated agreements. Here Berryman uses the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12) to echo that earlier president's cautionary words. In doing so, he conveyed the deep distrust many Americans felt for Khrushchev.

Cartoon 49

A General View of the Global Situation

October 1, 1963
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743300

This cartoon appeared the day after French President Charles de Gaulle called for a more independent role for France in the Cold War. A two-star general, De Gaulle had a large nose often caricatured by cartoonists to make a point. Here, Berryman shows that nose interposed between the U.S. and the Soviet Union at a time when the two superpowers were creating an increasingly bipolar world (a global order in which two countries predominate). De Gaulle wanted to reshape NATO to allow more national autonomy and hoped to form an alliance of countries in continental Europe. He also called for an independent French nuclear arsenal, denouncing treaties that limited the development of nuclear weapons. Berryman depicts De Gaulle with his eyes shut, and indeed U.S officials were not convinced he was seeing Cold War realities clearly. Former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson criticized de Gaulle's views and characterized them as destructive European nationalism.

Cartoon 50

Blackballed…Again

October 23, 1963
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743303

This cartoon shows Mao Zedong, the communist leader of the People's Republic of China, being hit by a blackball, symbolizing the United Nations' latest vote to deny his country membership. Two countries claimed to be China, so which China belonged in the U.N.? When this cartoon appeared, the U.N.'s General Assembly had just voted for the fourteenth year in a row to reject a proposal to expel the non-communist Republic of China (also known as Taiwan) and admit the communist People's Republic. The vote count was 57 against making that switch and 41 in favor. The idea of allowing membership to "two Chinas" was unacceptable to both of the Chinas and to the U.S., which consistently supported the Republic of China. In previous years, the Soviet Union had backed the People's Republic; this particular year, a dispute between the countries meant that even the Soviets voted no.

Chapter 6 • Civil Rights

Cartoon 51

Smothered

July 7, 1956
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743224

This cartoon was published the day after the U.S. House of Representatives voted down a bill that would have given states federal money to build schools. The bill was a priority for President Eisenhower's administration, which justified expanding the federal government's role in educational funding by pointing to the need for more engineers in the Cold War era. But the bill faced several major obstacles: Some representatives argued that private religious schools should also receive funds. Others questioned the amount of funding and the way the money would be divided among the states. The final and fatal obstacle was Representative Adam Clayton Powell's amendment denying funds to any state that continued to defy the Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education by allowing racial segregation of schools to continue. That amendment cost too many Southern votes; the bill was doomed.

Cartoon 52

No Jury Trial for the Likes of You

June 16, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743242

When this cartoon appeared, the U.S. House of Representatives was debating a proposed civil rights bill aimed at protecting voting rights. The central point of debate was whether defendants accused of violating court orders related to civil rights should be guaranteed a trial by a local jury. Many Northern representatives did not trust Southern juries to decide such cases fairly and wanted federal court judges to decide them instead. But some Southern representatives and others proposed amendments to the bill that would guarantee a jury trial. Ultimately, the House passed the bill without that guarantee and sent it along to the U.S. Senate. The House and Senate then hammered out a compromise that provided for jury trials in certain civil rights cases but not all. The resulting bill was signed into law as the Civil Rights Act of 1957. The looped rope, or noose, in the cartoon may be a reference to the most brutal civil rights violation: lynching (the public execution, often by hanging, of a person by a mob). It's also possible that Berryman means to suggest the House's preference for a "hanging judge" over a Southern jury in cases of civil rights violations; a "hanging judge" is an informal phrase for a judge who imposes especially harsh sentences on those convicted.

Cartoon 53

The Place is Full of Simon Legrees!

June 22, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743243

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. 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 enslaved people in the book.)

Cartoon 54

I Wouldn't Have Believed It Possible!

August 31, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743247

A filibuster is a prolonged speech made to delay or block action on legislation. Here, Senator Wayne Morse, the previous holder of the filibuster record in the U.S. Senate, displays a newspaper announcing Senator Strom Thurmond's record-setting 24-hour-and-18-minute speech opposing the 1957 civil rights bill. Laughter erupted when Thurmond ended by declaring the obvious: "I expect to vote against the bill." The bill had been crafted by the Eisenhower administration but weakened by amendments to win Senate votes. The Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives wrestled all summer over whether civil rights cases should be decided by local juries or federal court judges. Thurmond's filibuster was a last-ditch protest after a compromise on the issue had already been worked out. Immediately after his speech, the bill passed and was signed into law as the Civil Rights Act of 1957.

Cartoon 55

Maybe They Can Beat the Yankees!

September 26, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743251

In 1957, Governor Orval Faubus called in the National Guard to block the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. After federal authorities ordered the Guard to stop interfering, white mobs formed and grew unruly. Citing the danger of anarchy, President Eisenhower sent 1000 U.S. Army troops to the city. The day before this cartoon was published, angry whites confronted the troops as they escorted nine African American students into the school. Faubus denounced the federal action as an echo of the use of troops to enforce civil rights laws during the Reconstruction Era. In this cartoon, Faubus's newspaper announces a different but concurrent event: the Milwaukee Braves baseball team had just won the National League pennant. In the cartoon's caption, Berryman wonders if the Braves will fare better against the New York Yankees in the upcoming World Series than Faubus has fared in his showdown with the "yankee" troops who have quashed his anti-integration efforts.

Cartoon 56

Roadblock...Or Repair Work Ahead?

June 24, 1958
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743262

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.

Cartoon 57

With This Issue I Couldn't Lose

July 31, 1958
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743268

Two days before this cartoon appeared, Governor Orval Faubus decisively won a primary election to become the Democratic Party's nominee for governor of Arkansas once again. Arkansas was overwhelmingly Democratic; Faubus would go on to win the general election in a landslide. His winning issue was his resistance to integration and federal intervention. (Faubus had used Arkansas National Guard troops to block the integration of Little Rock's Central High School. His defiance was neutralized when President Eisenhower sent in U.S. Army troops to help integrate the school.) Faubus's victory in the Democratic primary cheered Southern segregationists but alarmed Northern Democrats. They worried that having Faubus as the party's candidate for state office would alienate African Americans from the Democratic Party more generally—and lose the party crucial votes in the presidential election of 1960.

Cartoon 58

Fourth 'R' in Public Schools

September 14, 1958
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743271

This cartoon highlights the central role played by court rulings in ongoing struggles over school desegregation. Two days before this cartoon appeared, the U.S. Supreme Court refused a Little Rock City Council request to delay integration in Little Rock, Arkansas. At the same time, new court battles were starting up in Virginia, where state laws passed in 1956 denied state funds to integrated schools and authorized the governor to close any school that integrated. Invoking these laws, Virginia Governor J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., closed some schools in the fall of 1958. (This action was part of Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd's "massive resistance" strategy, which grew out of a 1956 "Southern Manifesto" that Byrd and 100 other politicians signed opposing integration in all public spaces.) Eventually, both state and federal courts ruled the Virginia "massive resistance" laws unconstitutional. The schools reopened with limited integration.

Cartoon 59

A Flower Tries to Grow in Birmingham

May 14, 1963
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743297

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 Berryman expresses his dismay at the new violence.

Cartoon 60

Let Me Through!

September 29, 1963
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743298.

Two key bills favored by President John F. Kennedy's administration were taken up by the U.S. Senate during September of 1963. A bill to reduce taxes and a civil rights bill both faced strong opposition. This cartoon reflects the widespread opinion that focusing on one bill at a time might work better given the challenges. The tax bill was less controversial, so many people thought it should go first. The civil rights bill would change American society more fundamentally and so was expected to face lengthy delays in the form of amendments and a filibuster. Ultimately, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the tax measure into law on February 26, three months after President Kennedy's assassination. In July, he signed the civil rights bill into law as the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Chapter 7 • Science and Technology Transform America

Cartoon 61

All Set for A Super-Secret Session in Washington

July 23, 1949
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743145

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.

Cartoon 62

Strange Echo

December 11, 1953
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743183

In the early 1950s, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were engaged in a fierce nuclear arms race. Each tried to outdo the other by developing ever more sophisticated and destructive atomic weapons. In this tense atmosphere, various proposals for international arms control were suggested but abandoned. The Soviets resisted systems of inspection, and the U.S. refused to give up its nuclear arsenal without them. Three days before this cartoon was published, President Dwight D. Eisenhower took a new approach in his "Atoms for Peace" speech to the United Nations. He proposed sharing nuclear technology for peaceful, non-military purposes. Although his proposal had little impact on the arms race, over time an expansion of research led to advances in nuclear power (the use of atomic energy to generate electricity).

Cartoon 63

It's Time to Lay This Needle Aside!

May 18, 1955
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743204

Poliomyelitis, or polio, was one of the most dreaded diseases of the post-World War II era. Children were especially vulnerable to polio, which could cause paralysis or death. Because outbreaks peaked in the summer, children were kept away from swimming pools, playgrounds, and parks. In April of 1955, Dr. Jonas Salk announced the development of a safe, effective vaccine for polio. When this cartoon appeared in May, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis was providing for the vaccination of first- and second-graders, and Congress was considering legislation to support wider vaccination. Some legislators thought federal control was necessary, but others criticized federal leadership. Berryman's cartoon calls for these disagreements to be set aside for the greater good of vaccine distribution. In August, the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Assistance Act became law. It provided federal funds to help states distribute the vaccine. By 1960, polio was almost entirely eradicated from the U.S.

Cartoon 64

A Fellow Just Isn't Safe ANYWHERE Anymore!

September 21, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743250

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). 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.

Cartoon 65

Anybody Working?

October 6, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743253

In 1955, the U.S. announced plans to launch a satellite within three years. However, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union beat the U.S. to the punch by launching its own satellite. Named Sputnik 1, this artificial moon orbited the earth roughly every 98 minutes and was the size of a beach ball. Sputnik I marked the beginning of the space race: the Cold War-era competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union for dominance in space exploration. The space race was an outgrowth of the arms race and ideological battles between the two rivals. Dominance in space flight was seen to indicate not only technological superiority and military superiority but also ideological superiority. After Sputnik, Americans worried about falling behind and became impatient with the pace of U.S. space exploration. Here Berryman takes a dig at the country's scientists for watching Sputnik—when they should be working instead.

Cartoon 66

It Shouldn't Happen To a Dog!

November 5, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743254

On Nov. 3, 1957, the Soviet Union built on its lead in the space race against the U.S. by launching a second satellite, Sputnik II. This time the Soviets sent along a dog named Laika. She was the first living creature to travel into space. Americans' impatience and alarm grew as the U.S. seemed to be falling further behind in the quest for technological dominance. In this cartoon published two days after the launch, Uncle Sam (representing the U.S.) listens to a radio transmission of the Soviet space dog and breaks into a sweat. This latest Soviet blow to America's scientific, military, and ideological prestige was not good news. Maybe Uncle Sam is also worried about the dog. An article appearing alongside the cartoon mentions public concern about Laika (she was not expected to survive the journey). The article also speculates that the Soviet Union's willingness to sacrifice "man's best friend" would not win it any supporters.

Cartoon 67

They'd Better Not be Planning on a Santa-Nik

November 10, 1957
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743255

This cartoon was published a week after the Soviet Union solidified its lead in the space race by launching its second satellite, Sputnik II. The U.S. had still not launched even one. In the context of a Cold War defined by intense rivalry between the two superpowers, Americans were deeply concerned about yet another hit to U.S. dominance and prestige. In response, U.S. military officials announced a new Army effort to speed up the American space program. In Berryman's cartoon, Santa Claus hopes the Army's not expecting him to deliver. The reindeer looks worried too. In December, an attempted launch failed. The first successful U.S. satellite, Explorer I, was finally launched on January 31, 1958.

Cartoon 68

Whew!

October 12, 1958
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743276

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 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.

Cartoon 69

The Time is Still Now!

February 22, 1962
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743295

During the Cold War, the intense rivalry and fierce arms race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union made it seem as if the fate of the world depended on technological supremacy. For this reason, the space flight competition between the two countries was understood by many to be a fight for freedom as well as national pride. On February 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. The Soviet Union's Yuri Gagarin had already done so in 1961, but Glenn's flight meant the U.S. was still very much in the space race. Two days after Glenn's feat, this cartoon was published on the 230th anniversary of George Washington's birth. Seizing on that coincidence, Berryman celebrates Glenn's flight and shows Washington watching from the other side, urging the country on. (The quotation is from a letter in which Washington implored Major General Philip Schuyler not to quit the American Revolution. Schuyler wrote back that he had decided to "sink or swim" with his country.)

Cartoon 70

I Just Didn't Realize I Was So Bad Off

October 14, 1963
Jim Berryman
National Archives Identifier: 5743302

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy created the President's Commission on the Status of Women. The day before this cartoon was published, the Commission delivered its final report, which described many factors contributing to women's economic and legal inequality and suggested major reforms. Berryman takes a different view. His representative American woman is white and well-to-do, resplendent in pearls and a fur coat, surrounded by abundant luxuries and labor-saving appliances. The 1950s saw an explosion in the availability of such goods for those who could afford them, but it was also an era in which women had limited educational opportunities and faced widespread workplace discrimination. Women of color were especially hard hit. The President's Commission was later given credit for inspiring public discussion of women's equality, spurring the passage of the 1963 Equal Pay Act (which prohibited pay discrimination based on sex), and seeding the social networks that would help produce the women's rights movement of the 1970s.