

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 1, Document 1



Citation

"Path to Peace." Clifford K. Berryman. *The Evening Star*, August 27, 1946. NAID: [6012362](https://www.archives.gov/details/6012362)

Caption

Josef Stalin lands a prize catch and threatens the West through Soviet meddling in Greece.

Description

Clifford Berryman drew this cartoon when communists and non-communists were contending for control of Greece. After World War II, it was difficult for the U.S. and U.S.S.R. 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."

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 1, Document 2



Citation

"This Wouldn't Stand Inspection!" Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*, December 7, 1956. NAID: [5743239](#)

Caption

Hungarian defiance of Soviet tanks generated powerful sympathy among Americans.

Description

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).

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 1, Document 3



Citation

"Backing it Up." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*, May 6, 1957. NAID: [5743241](#)

Caption

NATO's reliance on nuclear weapons to offset the Soviet advantage in conventional weapons affected America's commitment to defending Europe.

Description

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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 2, Document 1



Citation

Untitled. Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. October 24, 1947. Library of Congress

Caption

While many feared communist propaganda was being snuck into U.S. movies, this cartoon reflects period gender stereotypes in suggesting that the same level of concern was not shared by all people.

Description

Alarmed by allegations of communist propaganda secretly inserted into the scripts of Hollywood movies, the House Un-American Activities Committee launched an investigation of the industry and subpoenaed leading actors and producers to testify about the danger. Figures such as Charlie Chaplin, Walt Disney, and Ronald Reagan were called to Washington to present evidence to the committee. Several witnesses testified to the insidious efforts of communists to influence the messages conveyed by popular films. While the public perception of alarm and danger was real, Jim Berryman's cartoon seems to make light of the threat. He portrays a young woman delighted that Congress would showcase the movie stars she found appealing. Berryman's portrayal comments on the times but also reflects his apparently low opinion of the political awareness and civic engagement of women.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources



The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 2, Document 2



Citation

"What's Sauce for the Goose Is Sauce for the Gander." Clifford K. Berryman. *The Evening Star*. May 20, 1948. NAID: [6012422](#)

Caption

The fear of subversion affected public opinions about the civil rights of communists.

Description

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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 2, Document 3



Citation

"It's No Secret...We've Just Been Sitting on It!" Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. January 11, 1955. NAID: [5743196](#)

Caption

This cartoon appeared at the end of an investigation that captivated public attention but failed to show that the Army was influenced by communists.

Description

From 1953 to 1955, the U.S. Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, conducted an investigation into allegations of communism in the U.S. Army. As part of that investigation, an Army dentist named Irving Peress was accused of being a communist, though he refused to admit wrongdoing. McCarthy charged that the Army had 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. Over the course of his investigations into the Army, public approval of McCarthy dropped sharply, especially after a series of televised hearings in 1954. A month before this cartoon appeared, the Senate had formally "censured" McCarthy for his behavior while leading the investigation.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 3, Document 1



Citation

"It's All Yours." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. February 3, 1953. NAID: [5743173](#)

Caption

The sarcastic tone of this cartoon suggests that U.S. ally Chiang Kai-Shek can't fulfill his pledge to conquer mainland China.

Description

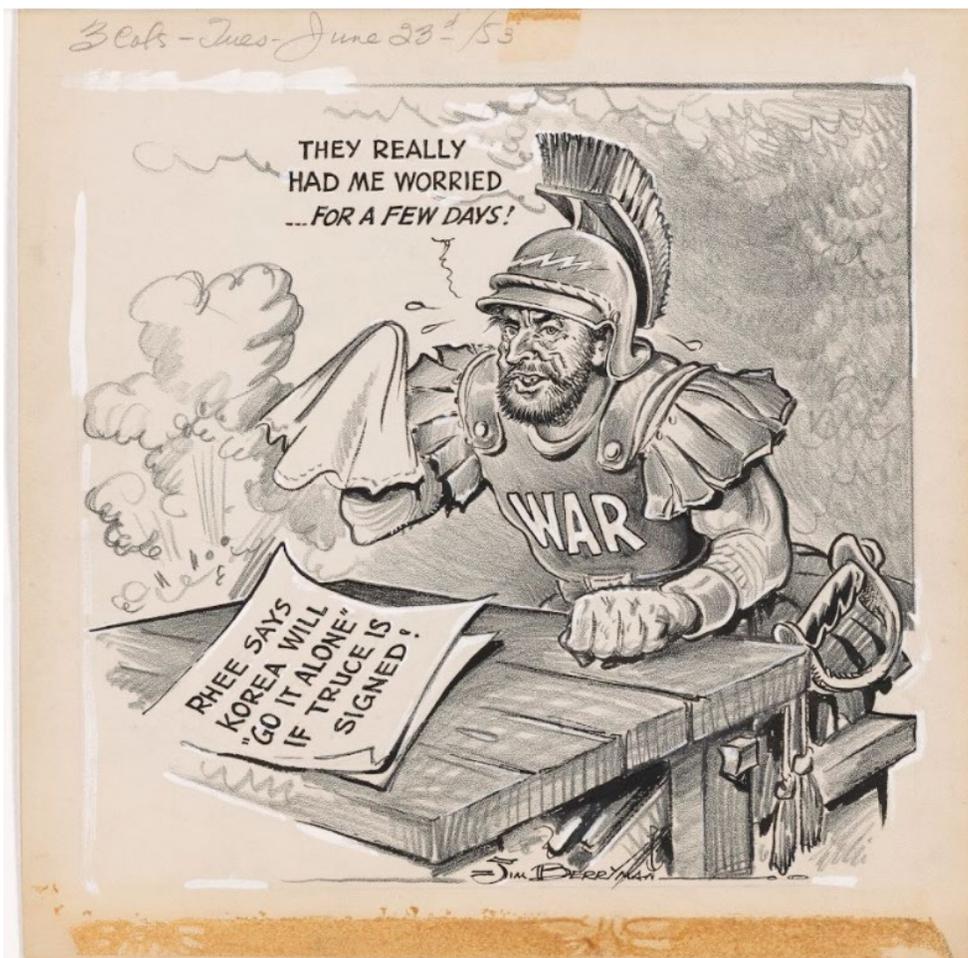
In 1949, China's non-communist Nationalist Party was forced out of mainland China by the communist regime. The Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-Shek, retreated to the island of Taiwan (also called Formosa). There they made plans to return to power on the mainland. The U.S. provided some equipment and 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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 3, Document 2



Citation

"They Really Had Me Worried." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. June 23, 1953 NAID: [5743179](#)

Caption

"War" is relieved that the Korean conflict will probably continue, but the U.S. wants a truce.

Description

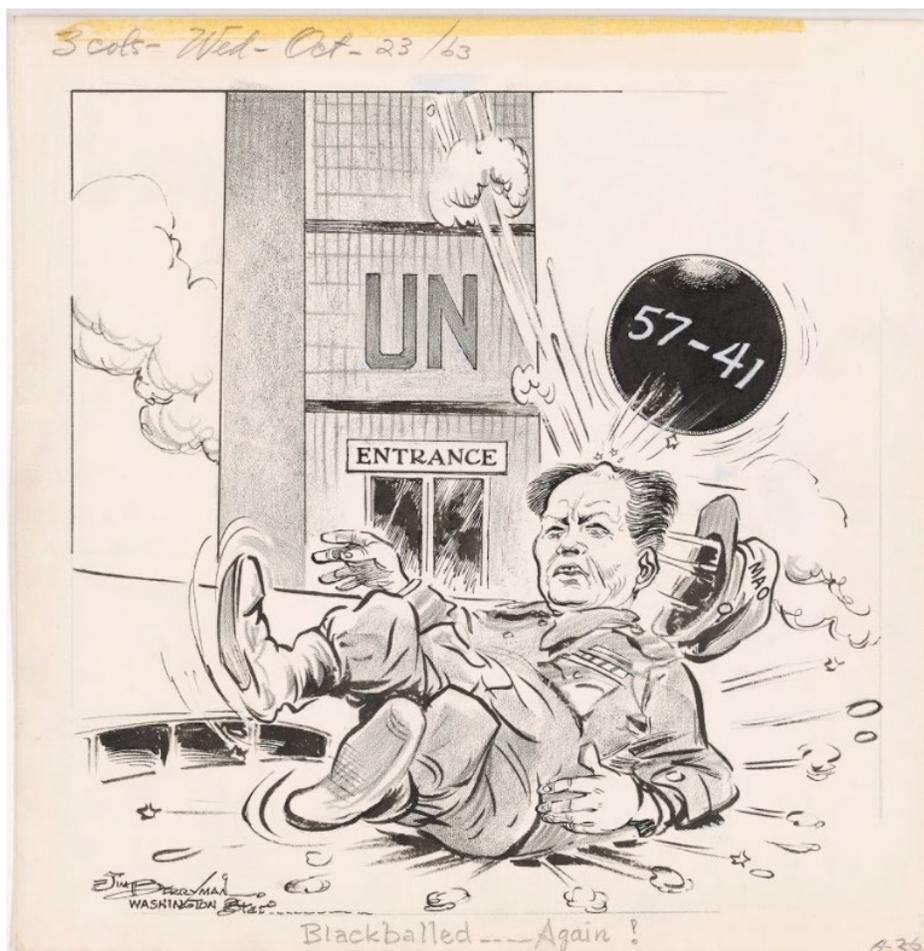
The Korean War (between communist North Korea and non-communist South Korea and its allies) had been raging for almost three years, and at long last United Nations talks of a truce were progressing. But even as the end was in sight South Korean President Syngman Rhee thought the U.N. was giving up too 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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 3, Document 3



Citation

"Blackballed...Again." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. October 23, 1963 NAID: [5743303](#)

Caption

For over two decades the U.S. blocked communist China from joining the United Nations.

Description

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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 4, Document 1



Citation

"Strange Echo." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. December 11, 1953. NAID: [5743183](#)

Caption

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" speech at the United Nations got a hostile reception from Moscow.

Description

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).

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 4, Document 2



Citation

"Sounds Like the Line I Fell for Ten Years Ago." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. February 20, 1955. NAID: [5743199](#)

Caption

The U.S. defended the freedom of its allies and was wary of dropping its guard against anticipated trickery by the communist powers.

Description

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 Uncle 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. 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. It's no wonder Uncle Sam hesitates.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 4, Document 3



Citation

"I Don't Think I Can Make It." Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. August 1, 1961. NAID: [5743293](#)

Caption

A new blueprint for the Soviet Union's economy emphasized producing consumer goods to improve Russians' standard of living to surpass those of the Western democracies.

Description

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 to that famous boast.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 5, Document 1



Citation

"A Test He Can't Abandon!" Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. October 30, 1956. NAID: [5743235](#)

Caption

Democratic candidate for President, Adlai Stevenson, labeled hydrogen bombs a major threat to mankind and made banning them a central issue of his campaign.

Description

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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 5, Document 2



Citation

"A Fellow Just Isn't Safe ANYWHERE Anymore!" Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. September 21, 1957. NAID: [5743250](https://www.archives.gov/details/5743250)

Caption

Underground, atomic bomb testing contained radioactive material bringing safety to the development of more destructive weapons.

Description

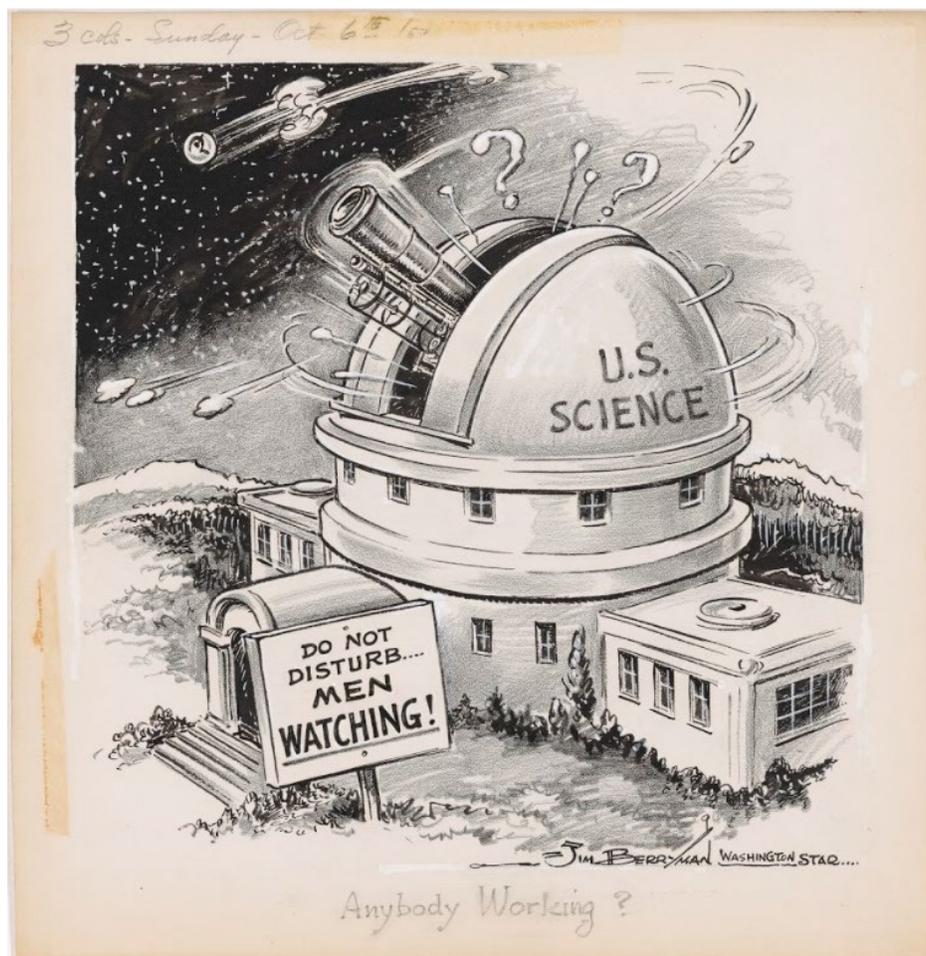
During the Cold War, the arms race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union spurred the development of new and more powerful nuclear weapons. Two days before this cartoon appeared, the U.S. carried out its first fully-contained, underground, atomic bomb test. Until then, the U.S. had been testing nuclear 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. 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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources

The Cold War in Political Cartoons, 1946 - 1963

Center for Legislative Archives

Station 5, Document 3



Citation

"Anybody Working?" Jim Berryman. *The Evening Star*. October 6, 1957. NAID: [5743253](#)

Caption

The same rocket technology powered both Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and peaceful space satellites such as Sputnik 1.

Description

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.

www.archives.gov/legislative/resources