

Britain continues—at the same time that closer cooperation, against the Soviet Union, develops. The United States is making the best of its opportunities; it continues to squeeze the British in the Far East and Latin America. In that sense, the protests against British interference with our mail are not wholly shadow-boxing.

But for the time being, rivalry with the British of necessity takes second place in American foreign policy. The anti-Soviet orientation is more fundamental. As Great Britain pursues an increasingly aggressive anti-Soviet policy in the North via Scandinavia and in the Middle East via Turkey, the United States will be expected to follow suit—indeed, to give leadership. Another, more general factor operates to make this country the spearhead in a worldwide anti-Soviet front. Editorial writers for the Scripps-Howard papers and other publications show their appreciation of this factor when they urge the wealthy to beat back the “Red menace” in Finland. The United States is the largest and most powerful capitalist country in the world. As such, it stands in long-term conflict with the only socialist state. When American capitalism’s anti-Soviet interests are combined with increasingly profitable war trade with the Allies, no wonder the anti-British trend is overshadowed. American exports in December 1939 were 40 percent higher than in December 1938; more than half of the increase is accounted for by Allied purchases.

When is the United States expected to enter the war in a crusade against the “Godless Russians”? The answer depends on many military and economic factors which obviously cannot be predicted now. This country’s internal political situation and the extent of its anti-war movement will of course be a key factor. So will the Allies’ decision as to when they need our troops. But the United States is already in the war. The President recently told one of his visitors: “Mussolini has been a good boy so far. If he continues to be good, I can guarantee him Djibouti and Tunisia.” Direct military intervention would therefore be only a phase of the administration’s foreign policy. But long before that happens the people of this country will have their say. When the people’s answer swells to an even greater volume than it has reached today, Washington will hesitate. Foregone conclusions would be misleading.

ADAM LAPIN.

## Smile, Smile, Smile

“**M**RS. [Carrie Chapman] Catt said immortality would be the reward of any woman who could evolve a way to abolish war. ‘If we had the right spirit we could destroy war with an idea.’ Mrs. Catt suggested that inasmuch as tears could settle nothing, war might be ended with humor, ‘if we are smart enough.’”—*New York Times*, January 25, reporting Washington Conference on the Cause and Cure of War.

# The Detroit Raid

The old Palmer Raid technique is used in Detroit with cold injustice. An 1818 law is revived to attack democracy.

**S**OMEWHERE in the recesses of Wayne County Jail is a desperate criminal. It must be a very desperate criminal, for—consider the facts of the case.

Ordinary criminals, like Killer Dean of the Black Legion for example, are treated fairly decently at the jail. Dean enjoyed liquor and cigars, had a radio in his cell, and even entertained a lady visitor unbeknownst—so it was said—to the authorities. But then, Dean was only a Black Legion triggerman, who boasted of killing for the thrill of it.

Today the County Jail houses a criminal of an entirely different stripe. This one is kept in solitary confinement in an ice-cold cell, is permitted no visitors—not even closest relatives—and is one of the prize captures of the vaunted G-men, who swooped down at five in the morning to make their arrest.

The name of this desperate criminal is Mary Paige. Yes, she is a woman; well, hardly a woman—a kid, you might say. She wasn’t old enough in 1936 to vote for President Roosevelt. She has never been arrested before in her life. She does not know why she was arrested this time—routed out of her bed before dawn, though she could have been apprehended with the greatest of ease at any reasonable hour.

Some idea of what a menace the G-men consider her may be derived from the fact that she is held under \$10,000 bail, a figure usually reserved for crimes like homicide. Yet *nobody has yet told her of what she is accused.*

This much is known: the gangbusters’ dramatic capture of Mary Paige has something to do with American volunteers in Spain; and Mary, according to U. S. Attorney John C. Lehr who ordered her arrest, “is reputed to be a Communist sympathizer.” The law under which Mary is held was passed in 1818, says Lehr. It was a law warning “that no resident of this nation can recruit or aid in recruiting soldiers to serve a foreign nation.” If the charge does indeed relate to recruiting for defense of Spanish democracy some two years ago, the FBI’s long delay in pressing it may very possibly be due to the research necessary to uncover such an old and obscure law.

Besides Mary, ten others were arrested in Detroit, all at the same unholy hour of the morning. Two among them are reputable physicians of long-established practice. One of the victims thought that burglars were trying to force an entrance, and called the police. Another simply inquired who wanted him, and his door was smashed in.

Needless to say, none of the defendants have any clearer idea than Mary of the crime or crimes they are supposed to have committed. Four have bails as high as \$20,000.

All are American born; all are long-standing residents of Detroit—one has lived in the same house since the day he was born. Why was this high bail necessary?

Immediately after the arrests, which were conducted with Gestapo-like roughness—the victims were hurried into scanty clothing and their apartments ransacked—they were taken to FBI headquarters and grilled steadily from five in the morning until three in the afternoon. Their attorney was refused permission to see them. He was told rudely that he could “see them in court.” When he pointed out that, without an opportunity to talk to them, he could have no idea how they should plead, he was grudgingly given five minutes with the prisoners. G-men surrounded them during the conference.

Even in court the defendants did not learn the specific “crimes” with which they are charged, except for a vague accusation of “conspiracy” to violate the 1818 law. None of them of course had ever heard of this law. They were herded in groups, held on so many nameless “counts” in the indictment. The number of counts against each person corresponded rather closely with the number of times that person had been mentioned in testimony before the Dies committee.

Eight of the defendants have been taken to the Federal Penitentiary at Milan, Mich. There they are treated exactly like convicted prisoners. Only close relatives may visit them, and then but one hour a month.

If the government is in no great hurry to bring them to trial, they may languish in prison as long as eight or nine months. Thus, if they are ultimately proved innocent of any crime, they will still have served more than one-third the maximum sentence provided in that ancient 1818 law.

To free them will require \$110,000. It seems an almost impossible sum, but a committee has already been formed, pledged to raise it. The chairman is the distinguished University of Michigan professor of psychology, John C. Shepard. The treasurer is the Reverend Owen Knox, of the Civil Rights Federation, 1000 Hofmann Bldg., Detroit. A telegram to President Roosevelt from the Civil Rights Federation says:

All facts relative to this charge have been public property for over two years. In Detroit and elsewhere recruiting for Finland is now taking place. Three questions occur to persons interested in civil rights:

Are things being pulled out of the past to discredit and convict persons for present opinions? Are these raids being staged for the purpose of stirring up war sentiment? Is the present raid the beginning of a series of flagrant violations of civil rights similar to the Palmer raids?

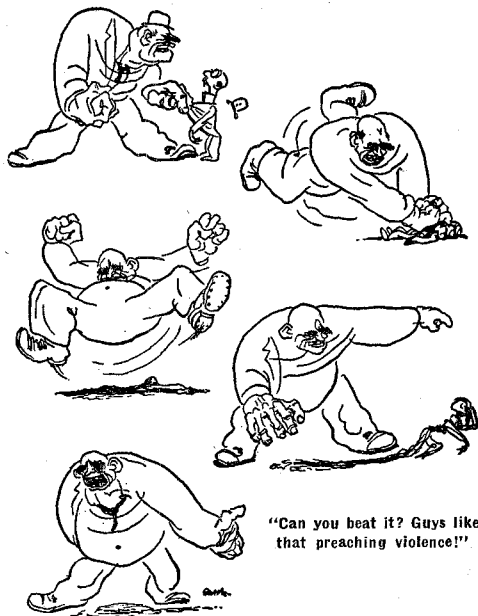
FRANCIS KEY.

# Gropperana

WITH the fecundity of a Daumier or a Forain, Bill Gropper has been producing first-class art for over two decades. No drawing of his, no matter how slight or simple, lacks that sure, illuminating touch of genius that marks the artist's work on every occasion.

Since Bill Gropper has been drawing political cartoons, his lines have carried a double message. With a political mind as sure and clear as his eye and brush, his drawings for the *Liberator* and *NEW MASSES* have been milestones in the political struggles of the day. In troubled times, when mental fogs are spread about by thinkers of the Fifth Column, a Gropper cartoon shines through as clearly as an infra-red beacon.

James Dugan plays Gropper's Boswell on page 28 of this issue.



"Can you beat it? Guys like that preaching violence!"

*Law and Order*

*Liberator*



*New Masses (monthly)*

*Journey's End*



*Graduation Week*

*New Masses*



*Tax the Rich*

*New Masses*



*After Election*

*New Masses*



*Dies Investigates*

*New Masses*



*Congress*

*New Masses*



*Neville Chamberlain*

*New Masses*