Primary Source
Political Cartoon
by Herbert Block

Herbert Block drew this political cartoon shortly after the Cuban missile crisis, the most serious U.S.–Soviet confrontation. Notice that, unlike many American politicians and journalists who were severely critical of the Soviet leader at the time, Block depicts Nikita Khrushchev as an equal of President Kennedy in struggling to contain nuclear war.

“Let’s Get a Lock for This Thing”


Discussion Questions
1. Analyzing Political Cartoons What message does this cartoon send to the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union?

2. Forming and Supporting Opinions Considering the climate of the Cold War in 1962, do you think the spirit of this cartoon is overly optimistic? Why or why not?