

Political Cartoon - “Waiting for a signal from home ...”

Most of you know children’s author Theodor Geisel as Dr. Seuss. But did you know that he was also a political cartoonist, commenting on the events of the 1930’s and 1940’s. As such, he reflected many of the American attitudes of his day. Below is a political cartoon which appeared in PM magazine on February 13, 1942 Take a close look and see if you can answer the following questions:

1. Notice the date of the cartoon. What events were occurring at this time?
2. Which states are portrayed in the cartoon?
3. What nationality are the persons in the cartoon? What racial stereotypes does Dr. Seuss use to portray these people?
4. What is being handed out to the people in the line? Do you know what TNT is or what it does?
5. The key figure on top of the roof is looking through a spy glass. In what direction is he looking and why?
6. The title of the cartoon is, “Waiting for the Signal From Home...” What signal might Dr. Seuss be referring to? And what is home for the people in this political cartoon.

Take the details you have gathered by answering the questions above and write an analysis of the political cartoon on the back. Be sure your paragraph addresses the purpose and the point of view of this political cartoon? How might PM readers in the US from different backgrounds reacted to this cartoon?