

Consider this:

The author of this article suggests that the women were arrested on false charges. Do you agree?

Where does the Constitution protect our right to free speech and the right to demonstrate peacefully?

Vocabulary:

baffle = puzzle

grotesque = bizarre,

outlandish

precipitated = unexpectedly occurring

Women Arrested

Sixteen women, representing the states of the West, the East and the South, during the past week have been arrested for the peace-picketing of the White House. Beginning with a riot which was precipitated by the action of the police, the grotesque chapter which this week adds to the fifty-years' battle for suffrage will baffle future students of the movement in this country....

... The picket went out as usual Friday, June 22, when Miss Lucy Burns and Miss Katherine Morey stood at the lower gates of the White House with the familiar banner carrying the President's own words:

"We will fight for the things we have always held nearest our hearts, for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments."

For seven minutes the police pondered. "We can't arrest the President's message," they said, "they've had it out before." Then they took a chance and obeyed orders. Technically Miss Burns and Miss Morey found they were arrested for "obstructing traffic," though there had been no traffic at the time of their arrest, and Inspector Grant and Major Pullman seemed embarrassed and unable to explain the new ruling.

Source: *The Suffragist*, June, 1917.

