Image One

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Image Six

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Image Seven
Image Nine
NEGRO RANK and FILE WHITE

VETERANS MARCH TO WASHINGTON

TO ARRIVE AT OPENING OF CONGRESS

DECEMBER 5th, 1932

TO DEMAND

CASH PAYMENT of BONUS

MARCH TO BE LED BY
RANK AND FILE VETERANS

Again the veterans are going to march to Washington, to demand immediate full cash payment of the Bonus. This time we will have fighting leadership that won’t sell us out. Why are we going to march? Let’s see:

A WINTER OF HUNGER
FACES THE VETERANS

Cold, brutal winter is now on us. Over a million and a half unemployed veterans are hungry; hundreds of thousands of us have no shelter. And there will be more of us in that fix by the time winter comes.

Those of us who still have some work have suffered wage cuts, and the stagger plct, and face more wage cuts.

INTEREST CHARGES
WIPE OUT BONUS BY 1945

In 1945 there will be no Bonus for the rank and file veteran. The balance is now being eaten up by the compound interest charged by the government to all who borrowed the fifty percent of the Adjusted Service Certificate. In 1945 there will be only about $30 to $60 for the great majority of the veterans entitled to the Bonus. WE MUST FIGHT FOR THE BONUS NOW!

THE ENEMIES OF THE BONUS
ARE UNITED AGAINST US

The Republican, Democratic and Socialist Parties are all united in the fight against the payment of the balance due the veterans on the Bonus. They get the full support of the boss press, and the liberal press too.

Walke, the Hoke Smiths, the Deak Carriers and other former leaders of the B. E. F. are fighting the rank and file veterans who are putting up a fight for the immediate payment of the Bonus.

The newly elected commander Johnson has had recent correspondence with Hoover and will not fight for the Bonus.

General Glassford and the Hoover government are again preparing to prevent the veterans from making direct demands on Congress.

These factors are all lined up with the enemies of the Bonus to prevent the rank and file of the veterans from uniting their mass power to march to Washington and again demand the immediate payment of the Bonus against cutting of the disability allowances.

RANK AND FILE VETERANS,
MARCH TO WASHINGTON!

All Veterans March to Washington!

Veterans’ organizations, elect Bonus Marchers. All rank and file veterans, including employed and unemployed veterans, should elect delegate Bonus Marchers. Veterans from shops, mills, mines, factories and farms should be elected. Bonus marchers should be elected from the veteran membership in labor, fraternal and social organizations.

ELECT CITY RANK AND
FILE COMMITTEES

City rank and file committees representing the various groups and organizations of veterans should meet to carry out the program of Central Rank and File Committee elected by the Cleveland Conference of the Rank and File Veterans.

HEROES IN 1917;
THEY CALL US “CRIMINALS” NOW

In 1917 the government appealed to the masses: “Shall we be more tender with our dollars than with the lives of our sons?” (Second Liberty Bond poster, 1917.)

And now, in 1932: “The bonus marchers are criminals…” (Statement of President Hoover.)

Neither then nor now did the Wall Street government care about the welfare of the soldier, “the lives of our sons.”

Billions went to the billionaires who in 1917 made huge profits from the war, and today the billions go to the same crowd.

The Congress that refused to give the starving veterans the bonus gave through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation four and a half billion dollars for the bankers, the railroads and other big corporations.

We got the bullets and the gas in 1917. Many of us were maimed and crippled for life. In 1932 we get the bullets and gas of the police, as we did in Washington, and of the troops, which Hoover called out against us.

Because we were demanding the Bonus so that we and our families could have something to eat, the President of the United States orders the army to gas and bayonet us, to burn our meager belongings and to drive our wives and children out of the dark of the night.

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Primary Sources

Image Sources:


4. “Finis,” also by Starrett, appeared three weeks later, on December 27. It sums up how many stock investors felt about the year 1929 (and may feel today about 2008). (For those too young to remember, the machine in the background is an old-fashioned stock ticker, which printed incoming stock quotes on “ticker tape,” as shown in the foreground.) http://www.archelaus-cards.com/blog/2009/01/12/the-great-depression-in-cartoons-part-1-1929-30/


7. Unknown. 1929. [Herbert Hoover signing the Farm Relief Bill, with nine other men standing alongside and behind him]. Library of Congress: Prints & Photographs, National Photo Company Collection.


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