

Glenn Rupp

The Bonus March

Eyewitness account of the World War I Veterans' Bonus March in 1932.

Interview recorded April 28, 2005

We heard, via the radio, and the newspapers, that a bunch of veterans of World War I were marching on the Capitol. They were a destitute bunch, and they were penniless, and their families in some cases were with them. They were called the "Bonus Expeditionary Forces" was the correct name for them. And we were afraid up at the Capitol, because they were quite insistent on getting a bonus. This was in 1932, and President Hoover had already said that he would veto any bonus bill that was passed. Well, Wright Patman was in charge of the legislation in the House, and he used to give me money and checks to take down to General Glassford, who was Chief of the Metropolitan Police Force, and they used this money to set up kitchens—soup kitchens for the veterans and their families.