

RANK and FILE COMMITTEE of the BONUS MARCHERS  
(Representing Eighteen States)

July 8, 1932  
Washington, D.C.

To: Vice-President Curtis and Speaker of the House, Garner:

We, the Rank and File Committee, representing veterans, from eighteen states, assembled at Constitution Ave. and 15th St. and also assembled on the Capitol grounds, protest against the abrogation of the Right to Petition Congress. This right was abrogated by the refusal of Vice-President Curtis and Representative Garner, Speaker of the House, when our Committee was denied the right to march on the Capitol and present our petition.

Our Petition in Part Contains the Following:-

1. We demand that Congress appropriate the \$100,000 proposed loan to the veterans, for transportation to send them home, to feed and shelter the veterans in Washington.
2. Veterans will present a bill to Congress for the cash payment of the Bonus which will first be adopted by the Conference of the Rank and File.
3. Congress must not adjourn before legislation is enacted for the immediate cash payment of the Bonus.

The action denying us the right of petition is not only a further evidence that the enemies of the Bonus are putting every obstacle in our way in our demand for the payment of the Bonus, but this action now is a challenge to every person in the United States. By this action, we are all told we have no right to petition Congress. The excuse that a petition had already been submitted, gives no one or Congress as a whole, the right to deny further petition even on the same subject.

The 20,000 or more war veterans in Washington are not only demanding the Bonus, which is our back pay, but our demand is a part of the demand of the millions of unemployed who are hungry and who are starving. Congress must not arbitrarily deny us this right of petition.

Since our arrival in Washington about six weeks ago, and also in the past, the rank and file of the veterans have had a line-up against them of the forces of the government, the vote of the Senate, the veto of the President of the United States, the soft-soaping and back-patting by the "friendly" members of the House of Representatives.

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Self-appointed leaders who are constantly betraying the veterans and with the assistance and domination of the Department of Justice Intelligence Department and the Police are trying to divide and split the forces of the Bonus Marchers. Instructions of Waters and other self-appointed leaders not to support the petition nor to march, further proves that this self-appointed leadership will interfere with the rights of the rank and file and support the enemies of the Bonus, even to deny us our constitutional rights to petition. The press and the radio are now instructed not to give us publicity. Wholesale houses of food supply are told not to give us food and now our right to petition is being denied.

Authorities at the Capitol by this action give us further evidence, which exposes them as the enemies of the veterans. Veterans were permitted to speak at the Capitol only when it was known that they would not exercise their right to petition. When the rank and file wants to present a petition they are refused. The same Congress that told us to uphold the Constitution and be good Americans is openly violating the Constitution when they deny this right.

We will not be swayed from our objective. The veterans will not be starved out of Washington. The veterans will not permit their ranks to be divided nor deprived of any of their rights to petition Congress and will carry out the purpose which has brought them here, - the immediate cash payment of the Bonus.

We protest the denial to us of the right to speak on the Capitol hill and the arming of the police. This arming of the police and the denial of permission to even speak on the Capitol grounds was an attempt to provoke the rank and file and create a condition where police would immediately attack the veterans. We refused to be lead into a trap of this kind. We are not here to allow the veterans to be provoked by the police of the Capital nor by the unprecedented action of the Vice-President and Mr. Garner of denying us the right of petition.

We again appeal to Vice-President of the United States, Mr. Curtis and to Speaker of the House, Mr. Garner, to rescind their decision, in denying us the Right of Petition and that they comply with the request that we made in writing.

Copies of this protest will be sent to the President, the Press, the Ways and Means Committee, the House of Representatives, the Finance Committee of the Senate and to all other members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, urging them to rescind this denial of the Right of Petition.

We call on the veterans to fight for this right to petition Congress on the Bonus and to intensify their fight for the immediate cash payment of the Bonus. We call on the masses of the people to send protest to their Congressmen and Senators against this denial of the right to petition. We call on the various veteran organizations, Workers and Farmers organizations throughout the country, to protest and send resolutions supporting us in the right of petition, supporting us in our fight for the payment of the BONUS- Our Back Pay.

Rank and File Committee of the  
Bonus Marchers

*John T. Pace*