

The Bonus Army and Labor Organizing

The Bonus Army (The Road to Rock Bottom)—Start at 28:07

1. What was the goal of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation?
2. What was its limitation?
3. Who was the likely Democratic nominee in the 1932 election?
4. What strength did Roosevelt have that was apparent to Hoover's inner circle?
5. Where did the Bonus Army start? What was the goal of the Army?
6. How did Hoover react to the Bonus Army before they reached Washington?
7. Where did the veterans stay once they arrived in Washington? Where did they wind up?
8. How did the existing U.S. army respond to the World War I veterans flocking to Washington?

9. How did the Secret Service respond?

10. How did Hoover respond to the Bonus army?

11. By May how many Bonus Army veterans were in Washington? Who was responsible for keeping order in the camp?

12. Why was Hoover opposed to paying the bonus to the veterans?

13. Why might paying the bonus might make sense?

14. What was the significance of the Bonus Army?

15. How did the Bonus bill fare in the Senate?

16. How did the Veterans react?

17. In racial terms, how did the Bonus Army differ from the U.S. army?

18. Describe the final protest of the Bonus Army before Congress adjourned (the “Death March.”)

19. What was notable about the Congressional adjournment?

20. Describe the eviction of the Bonus Army by the Washington Police.

21. Who were the (later) well-known U.S. military leaders that led the eviction of the Bonus Army?

22. How did MacArthur exceed his orders?

23. Describe the military eviction of the Bonus army in Anacostia.

24. How did Hoover respond to the eviction of the Bonus Army?

25. What was the impact of Hoover's action?

26. What was the major philosophical difference between Roosevelt and Hoover in the 1932 election?

27. What reality of the Great Depression awaited Herbert Hoover as he campaigned in Iowa?

28. How did Roosevelt react to his election?

Labor Organizing (Mean Things Happen)—start at 25:00

29. What was the relationship between the Jones and Laughlin (J&L) and Aliquippa PA?

30. What rules did J&L's employees have to follow?

31. How did the National (Industrial) Recovery Act change the relationship between J&L and its workers?

32. How did J&L respond to attempts to unionize its mills?

33. What were the major features of the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act)?

34. How did J&L view the Wagner Act?

35. How did John L. Lewis view the Wagner Act? What did he do?

36. Why was the Steel industry Lewis' major organizing target?

37. Who led the Steel Workers Organizing Committee?
38. How did SWOC break with tradition?
39. What advantage did Northern union workers have over Southern plantation workers in the 1936 election?
40. Why was U.S. Steel willing to negotiate with John Lewis?
41. How did the smaller steel companies ("Little Steel") respond to the CIO/US Steel agreement?
42. How did J&L respond to the strike that occurred after the Supreme Court ruling?
43. Why did the Governor of Pennsylvania request a tour of the J&L facility?
44. How did the J&L strike end?
45. How did Republic Steel respond to the SWOC victory at J&L?

46. How did the Memorial Day rally at Republic's South Chicago Plant turn tragic?

47. How did the media portray the demonstration? What impact did the rally at Republic Steel have on SWOC's organizing of "Little Steel"?

48. What eventual action did the National Labor Relations Board take after the film of the march became public?