

# Brother, Can You Spare a Dime

## (1931)

Lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney

They used to tell me I was building a dream, and so I followed the  
mob,  
When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there  
right on the job.  
They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory  
ahead,  
Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?

Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.  
Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?  
Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;  
Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,  
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,  
And I was the kid with the drum!

Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.  
Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,  
Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,  
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,  
And I was the kid with the drum!

Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.  
Say, don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?