

“Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?”

Lyrics: E.Y. “Yip” Harburg

Music: 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?
Say buddy, can you spare a dime?