Half a Century High

Phil Ochs

In the tube where I was born
I could have sworn
There was so much to see
There was so little to be
But I was freeWorld at my command
Through the dots I ran
Looking for a man
Who looked like meAnd now it can be told
I'm a quarter of a century old
But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was raised
I was amazed
On the pictures I would lean
That went flashing on the screenOh, I was dazed
But then my eyes were made
Hypnotized, insane [unverified]
Buried in my brain
In a blinding blazeAnd now it can be told
I'm a quarter of a century old
But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was grown
I was alone
The figure on the floor
(Laying on the floor)
The dream behind the door
(I'd lock the closet door)The sound was low
Ballgames on the street
Disappeared behind my feet
Out of breath my heart would be
To see another showAnd now it can be told
I'm a quarter of a century old
But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was made
I was afraid
Spinning through the space
Another scene, another face
Another shadeMirror of my mind
On electric wheels of wine
Living on the lines
That were displayedAnd now it can be told
I'm a quarter of a century old
But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was fed

I lost my head
I watch the lives they led
Watch them to the endAnd then again
An open kind of laugh
I gave all the mind I had
And whenever I was sad
I had my friendsAnd now it can be told
I'm a quarter of a century old
But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was killed
I was fulfilled
Such an easy way to win
Talking to my twin
No sign of sinThe sacrifice was small
Fascination was the fall
I was extended by the wall
That held me inAnd now it can be told
I'm a quarter of a century old
But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was killed
I was fulfilled
The lies of light would bend
I'd stare until the end
And then againFaded and the fad
I gave all the mind I had
And whenever I was sad
I had my friendsAnd now it can be told
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But I'm half a century highIn the tube where I was born
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But I was freeWorld at my command
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But I'm half a century high

Songwriters
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