

The One on the Right Is on the Left

Johnny Cash

There once was a musical troupe
A pickin', singin' folk group
They sang the mountain ballads
And the folk songs of our landThey were long on musical ability
Folks thought they would go far
But political incompatibility
Led to their downfallWell, the one on the right was on the left
And the one in the middle was on the right
And the one on the left was in the middle
And the guy in the rear was a MethodistThis musical aggregation
Toured the entire nation
Singing traditional ballads
And the folk songs of our landThey performed with great virtuosity
And soon they were the rage
But political animosity
Prevailed upon the stageWell, the one on the right was on the left
And the one in the middle was on the right
And the one on the left was in the middle
And the guy in the rear burned his driver's licenseWell, the curtain had ascended
A hush fell on the crowd
As thousands there were gathered
To hear the folk songs of our landWell, the one on the right was on the bottom
And the one in the middle was on the top
And the one on the left got a broken arm
And the guy on his rear said, "Oh, dear"Now this should be a lesson
If you plan to start a folk group
Don't go mixin' politics
With the folk songs of our landJust work on harmony and diction
Play your banjo well
And if you have political convictions
Keep 'em to yourselfNow, the one on the left works in a bank
And the one in the middle drives a truck
The one on the right's an all night DJ
And the guy in the rear got drafted