The Oil Song

Steve Forbert

Advisory - the following lyrics contain explicit language:

"Oh the engine's gone dead," cried the men who work there
And she passed up the dock on the wide Delaware
Then the ship ran aground and the oil got away
And they penned that report, "The big spill" on that dayIt was hundreds of thousands of gallons galore
Stretching thirty-two miles down the Delaware shore
There were geese in the marshes out looking for food
They got stuck where they stood in the oncoming crudeAnd it's oil, oil
Ah, drifting to the sea
Oil, oilDon't buy it at the station
You can have it now for free
Just come on down to the shoreline
Where the water used to beIn the well-charted waters of the Nantucket shoals
Was a ship run aground full of oil, we were told
In a week's worth of rough winter weather and waves
The boat started cracking and it could not be savedIt was seven-point-six million gallons this time
Consider the danger and think of the crime
As it poured out a slick stretching into the tide
Over one hundred-miles and yes, it came deep, it came wideAnd it's oil, oil
Oil pouring in the sea
Oil, oilOh, don't buy it at the station
You can have it now for free
Just come on down to the shoreline
Where the water used to beThere's talk of some writing found in the ship's log
Saying one of the helmsmen's unfit for his job
And the ship's gyro compass was six degrees shy
Their charts were outdated but they, they tried to get byAnd you know it's oil, oil
Yeah, pouring in the sea
Oil, oilDon't buy it at the station
You can have it now for free
Just come on down to the shoreline
Where the water used to be, yeahNow both of these ships, like a great many more
Got registered in through Liberian doors

Inspections are quick and regulations are few
Just sign on the line and go find you a crew, yesOne of these ships was the Olympic Games
The Argo Merchant was the other one's name
Well, it's sad, but it's true, things got worse for the seas
'Cause I ain't even mentioned Amoco CadizAmoco Cadiz, between England and France
The big super tanker out there taking it's chance
Within one hundred thousand black tons of the slime
Amoco Cadiz spilled the most of all timeYes, you know it's oil, oil
Man, it's creepin' in the sea
Oil, oilOh, don't buy it at the station
You can have it now for free
Just come on down to the shoreline
Where the water used to beNow down in the Gulf east of Mexico way
There's something gone wrong, so the papers all say
A Mexican oil well is leaking it's goo
They say it's the worse that things have ever come toYes, it's gallons of sludge, sixty million and more
It's cruising and oozing towards many a shore
Yes, things have got bad but they will probably get worse
If you can't drink the oil, oh, you might, you might die of thirstBecause it's oil, it's oil
And it's creeping in the sea
Oil, oilDon't buy it at the station
You can have it now for free
Just come on down to the shoreline
Where the water used to be, yeah

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