

# I'm Going To Say it Now

Phil Ochs

Oh I am just a student, sir  
And only want to learn  
But it's hard to read through the risin' smoke  
Of the books that you like to burnSo I'd like to make a promise  
And I'd like to make a vow  
That when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowOh you've given me a number  
And you've taken off my name  
To get around this campus  
Why, you almost need a planeAnd you're supporting Chang Kai-Shek  
While I'm supporting Mao  
So when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowI wish that you'd make up your mind  
I wish that you'd decide  
That I should live as freely  
As those who live outsideCause we also are entitled  
To the rights to be endowed  
And when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowOoh, you'd like to be my father  
You'd like to be my Dad  
And give me kisses when I'm good  
And spank me when I'm badBut since I've left my parents  
I've forgotten how to bow  
So when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowAnd things they might be different  
If I was here alone  
But I've got a friend or two  
Who no longer live at homeAnd we'll respect our elders  
Just as long as they allow  
That when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowI've read of other countries  
Where the students take a stand  
Maybe even help to overthrow  
The leaders of the landNow I wouldn't go so far to say  
We're also learnin' how  
But when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowSo keep right on a-talkin'  
And tell us what to do  
If nobody listens

My apologies to youAnd I know that you were younger once  
'cause you sure are older now  
And when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it nowSo I am just a student sir  
And only want to learn  
But it's hard to read through the risin' smoke  
From the books that you like to burnSo I'd like to make a promise  
And I'd like to make a vow  
That when I've got something to say, sir  
I'm gonna say it now

Songwriters

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