

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 Methodist

This musical aggregation toured the entire nation

 Singing the traditional ballads

 And the folk songs of our land

They 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 land

 But they took their politics seriously

 And that night at the concert hall

 As the audience watched deliriously

 They had a free-for-all

Well, 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 in the 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 land

 Just work on harmony and diction

 Play your banjo well

And if you have political convictions keep them to yourself Now, 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 deejay

 And the guy in the rear got drafted

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