

Love Me, I'm a Liberal

By Phil Ochs

(Born 1940, died 1976)

I cried when they shot [Medgar Evers](#),¹
tears ran down my spine.
I cried when they shot Mr. [Kennedy](#)
As though I'd lost a father of mine.
But [Malcolm X](#) got what was coming,
He got what he asked for this time.
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
liberal.

I go to civil rights rallies
And I put down the old [D.A.R.](#)²
I love [Harry](#) and Sidney and Sammy,³ I
hope every coloured boy becomes a
star.
But don't talk about revolution,
That's going a little bit too far.
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
liberal.

I cheered when [Humphrey](#) was chosen,
my faith in the system restored.
I'm glad the commies were thrown out
of the [AFL-CIO](#) board.⁴
I love Puerto Ricans and Negroes
as long as they don't move next door.
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
liberal.

The people of old Mississippi,
Should all hang their heads in shame.

¹ Head of NAACP of Mississippi. Assassinated by a white supremacist in 1963.

² Ultra-conservative "patriotic" organization that was outspoken in its opposition to immigration reform and integration.

³ Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, and Sammy Davis, Jr. were the most prominent and popular African-American entertainers of the early 1960s. All three were involved in political activism.

⁴ During the McCarthy era, the AFL-CIO, the largest union organization in the nation, removed from its leadership any person having present or past ties to the Communist party.

I can't understand how their minds
work; what's the matter don't they
watch [Les Crane](#)?⁵
But if you ask me to bus my children
I hope the cops take down your name.
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
liberal.

I read [New Republic](#) and [Nation](#).
I've learned to take every view.
You know, I've memorized Lerner and
Golden, I feel like I'm almost a Jew.⁶
But when it comes to times like [Korea](#),
there's no one more red, white and
blue.⁷
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
liberal.

I vote for the [Democratic Party](#).
They want [the U.N.](#) to be strong.
I go to all the [Pete Seeger](#) concerts.⁸
He sure gets me singing those songs.
I'll send all the money you ask for,
but don't ask me to come on along.
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
liberal.

Once I was young and impulsive,
I wore every conceivable pin.
Even went to the socialist meetings,
Learned all the old union hymns.
But I've grown older and wiser,
And that's why I'm turning you in.
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a
[liberal](#).

⁵ Popular TV talkshow host noted for mixing entertainment and politics on his show.

⁶ Prominent political commentators.

⁷ The U.S. was at war in Korea from 1950 to 1953

⁸ Like Phil Ochs, a very popular leftist folk singer.