

Down and Out in Paradise

John Mellencamp

Dear Mr. President
I live in the suburbs
It's a long way from Washington, D.C.
Had me a job
Working for wages
And they forgot about me
Can't draw unemployment
For some unknown reason
My kids are hungry
I've got four mouths to feed
I go out everyday lookin' for suitable
Employment
Do you think, there's something
You could do for me
'Cause I'm...

Down and out, here in paradise
Down and out, and I'm on my knees
I'm down and out, here in paradise
Looks like the milk and honey
Done run out on me

Dear Mr. President
I used to be a dancer
Got a little bit too old
So I became a secretary
Married as man
In Las Vegas, Nevada
And ten years later
He run out on the kids and me
Some said, I was pretty
But those days are over
Now, I've no place to live
And I'm out on the streets
Oh, Mr. President
Can I tell you a secret
I never ever thought, that this could
Happen to me
'Cause I'm...

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Down and out, and I'm on my knees
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Dear Mr. President
I'm just a young kid
I'm in the fourth grade
At riley elementary
My Mom and Dad's been actin' funny
I'm not sure
If it ain't got something to do with me
My Daddy's always drunk
My Mom's a babysitter
And I don't like the Russians
.Cause I hear, they hate me

Dear Mr. President
Can I ask you one question?
When the bombs fall down
Will they hurt everyone in my family
Yeah, yeah

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Down and out, and I'm on my knees
I'm down and out, here in paradise
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Done run out on me