

## The West

Johnny Cash

Then came West Virginia came Nevada and Nebraska  
Colorado and Dakota, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming  
And the West was opened up  
And for the first time it seems  
That the nation was really conscious of itself as a nation  
Railroad tracks crossed the land as did telegraph wires  
Public opinion and great ideas were now reflected on a national  
basis  
And never in this land before us and never more hereafter  
Will a land know such a people as a man we call a cowboy  
His hat and his bandana his unique brand of lingo  
All his devil deeds of daring bold and skillful in the saddle  
Brave and daring in the rambling wild and eager in exploring  
Land that calls him with a challenge  
But the land was already claimed by a people  
When the cowboy came and when the soldiers came  
The story of the American Indian is in a lot of ways a story of  
tragedy  
Like that day at Wounded Knee South Dakota