

## Bracero

Phil Ochs

Wade into the river, through the rippling shallow water  
Steal across the thirsty border, bracero  
Come bring your hungry bodies to the golden fields of plenty  
From a peso to a penny, bracero

Oh, Welcome to California  
Where the friendly farmer will take care of you  
Come labor for your mother, your father and your brother  
For your sister and your lover, bracero

Come pick the fruit of yellow, break the flower from the berry  
Purple grapes will fill your belly, bracero  
Oh, Welcome to California  
Where the friendly farmer will take care of you

And the sun will bite your body, as the dust will draw you thirsty  
While your muscles beg for mercy, bracero  
In the shade of your sombrero, drop your sweat upon the soil  
Like the fruit your youth can spoil, bracero

Oh, Welcome to California  
Where the friendly farmer will take care of you  
When the weary night embraces, sleep in shacks that could be cages  
They will take it from your wages, bracero

Come sing about tomorrow with a jingle of the dollar  
And forget your crooked collar, bracero  
Oh, Welcome to California  
Where the friendly farmer will take care of you

And the local men are lazy, and they make too much of trouble  
Besides we'd have to pay the double, bracero  
But if you feel you're fallin', if you find the pace is killing  
There are others who are willing, bracero

Oh, Welcome to California  
Where the friendly farmer will take care of you