

## Maintaining Law And Order

Phil Ochs

The policemen of the city wear a uniform of blue  
Walkin' within the city's border  
Protecting all the people  
That's what they're paid to do,  
Maintaining law and order.

You see them walkin' down the street  
Swingin' around the club  
Pistols hangin' loosely from the holster  
And the something of the soldier  
In the shedding of the blood  
Maintaining law and order.

And at the police academy  
They're trainin' for the day  
Where the rookies are training to be colder  
Learning to be as hard as the hard world they face  
Maintaining law and order.

Now in many Southern cities  
They don't need to use their hands  
Oh, they throw them roughly in the corner  
And tell the other prisoners "Here's a nigger-lovin' man"  
While maintaining law and order.

Now I'll be the first to tell you  
That their pay is not the best  
For they all have a wife and must support her  
So the gamblers and the prostitutes pay them the rest  
While they maintain law and order.

These are bitter words of warning  
And they have to leave you sad  
Cause a cop may save my life tomorrow  
But it's really for the good man that I'm singing about the bad  
Who are maintaining law and order.

Now they ask for greater power  
From the bottom to the top  
Their demands daily growing bolder  
But who maintain the police and who maintain the cops  
While they maintain law law and order.