

# Ringin' of Revolution

Phil Ochs

In a building of gold, with riches untold,  
Lived the families on which the country was founded.  
And the merchants of style, with their red velvet smiles,  
Were there, for they also were hounded.

And the soft middle class crowded in to the last,  
For the building was fully surrounded.  
And the noise outside was the ringin' of revolution.  
Sadly they stared and sank in their chairs

And searched for a comfortin' notion.  
And the rich silver walls looked ready to fall  
As they shook in doubtful devotion.  
The ice cubes would clink as they freshened their drinks,

Wet their minds in bitter emotion.  
And they talked about the ringin' of revolution.  
We were hardly aware of the hardships they beared,  
For our time was taken with treasure.

Oh, life was a game, and work was a shame,  
And pain was prevented by pleasure.  
The world, cold and grey, was so far away  
In the distance only money could measure.

But their thoughts were broken by the ringin' of revolution.  
The clouds filled the room in darkenin' doom  
As the crooked smoke rings were risin'.  
How long will it take, how can we escape

Someone asks, but no one's advisin'.  
And the quiverin' floor responds to the roar,  
In a shake no longer surprisin'.  
As closer and closer comes the ringin' of revolution.

Softly they moan, please leave us alone  
As back and forth they are pacing.  
And they cover their ears and try not to hear  
With pillows of silk they're embracin'.

And the cracklin' crowd is laughin' out loud,  
Peekin' in at the target they're chasin'.  
Now tremblin' inside the ringin' of revolution.  
With compromise sway we give in half way

When we saw that rebellion was growin'.  
Now everything's lost as they kneel by the cross  
Where the blood of christ is still flowin'.  
To late for their sorrow they've reached their tomorrow

And reaped the seed they were sowin'.  
Now harvested by the ringin' of revolution.  
In tattered tuxedos they faced the new heroes  
And crawled about in confusion.

And they sheepishly grinned for their memoroes were dim  
Of the decades of dark execution.

Hollow hands were raised; they stood there amazed  
In the shattering of their illusions.

As the windows were smashed by the ringing of revolution.  
Down on our knees we're begging you please,  
We're sorry for the way you were driven.  
There's no need to taunt just take what you want,

And we'll make amends, if we're living.  
But away from the grounds the flames told the town  
That only the dead are forgiven.  
As they crumbled inside the ringing of revolution.