

## We Didn't Know

Tom Paxton

"We didn't know," said the Burgomeister  
"About the camps on the edge of town  
It was Hitler and his crew  
That tore the German nation down  
We saw the cattle cars it's true  
And maybe they carried a Jew or two  
They woke us up as they rattled through  
But what did you expect me to do"  
"We didn't know at all  
We didn't see a thing  
You can't hold us to blame  
What could we do  
It was a terrible shame  
But we can't bear the blame  
Oh no, not us, we didn't know"  
"We didn't know," said the congregation  
Singing a hymn in their church of white  
"The press was full of lies about us  
Preacher told us we were right  
The outside agitators came  
They burned some churches and put the blame  
On decent southern people's name  
To set our coloured people aflame  
And maybe some of our boys got hot  
And a couple of niggers and reds got shot  
They should have stayed where they belong  
And preacher would've told us if we'd done wrong"  
We didn't know at all  
We didn't see a thing  
You can't hold us to blame  
What could we do  
It was a terrible shame  
But we can't bear the blame  
Oh no, not us, we didn't know  
"We didn't know," said the puzzled voter  
Watching the President on TV  
"I guess we've got to drop those bombs  
If we're gonna keep South Asia free  
The President's such a peaceful man  
I guess he's got some kind of plan  
They say we're torturing prisoners of war  
But I don't believe that stuff no more  
Torturing prisoners is a communist game  
And you can bet they're doing the same  
I wish this war was over and through  
But what do you expect me to do"  
We didn't know at all  
We didn't see a thing  
You can't hold us to blame  
What could we do  
It was a terrible shame  
But we can't bear the blame  
Oh no, not us, we didn't know