

## Arlo Guthrie "The Pause of Mr. Claus"

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words and music by Arlo Guthrie

This next song we're going to dedicate to a great American organization. Tonight I'd like to dedicate this to our boys in the FBI.

Well, wait a minute. It's hard to be an FBI man. I mean, first of all, being an FBI man, you have to be over 40 years old. And the reason is that it takes at least 25 years with the organization to be that much of a bastard. It's true. You just can't join, you know. It needs an atmosphere where your natural bastardness can grow and develop and take a meaningful shape in today's complex society.

But that's not why I want to dedicate the song to the FBI. I mean, the job that they have to do is a drag. I mean, they have to follow people around, you know. That's part of their job. Follow me around.

I'm out on the highway and I'm drivin' down the road and I run out of gasoline. I pull over to the side of the road. They gotta pull over too - make believe that they ran out, you know.

I go to get some gasoline. They have to figure out whether they should stick with the car or follow me. Suppose I don't come back and they're stayin' with the car.

Or if I fly on the airplanes, I could fly half fare because

I'm 12  
to 22. And they gotta pay the full fare. But the thing is  
that  
when you pay the full fare, you have to get on the  
airplane  
first, so that they know how many seats are left over for  
the  
half fare kids. Right? And sometimes there aren't any  
seats  
left over, and sometimes there are, but that doesn't  
mean that  
you have to go.

Suppose that he gets on and fills up the last seat, so  
you can't  
get on. Then he gets off then you can get on. What's he  
gonna  
do?

Well, it's a drag for him. But that's not why I want to  
dedicate  
the song to the FBI.

During these hard days and hard weeks, everybody  
always  
has it bad once in a while. You know, you have a bad  
time of  
it, and you always have a friend who says "Hey man,  
you  
ain't got it that bad. Look at that guy." And you at that  
guy, and he's got it worse than you. And it makes you  
feel  
better that there's somebody that's got it worse than  
you.

But think of the last guy. For one minute, think of the  
last  
guy. Nobody's got it worse than that guy. Nobody in the  
whole world. That guy...he's so alone in the world that  
he  
doesn't even have a street to lay in for a truck to run  
him over.  
He's out there with nothin'. Nothin's happenin' for that  
cat.

And all that he has to do to create a little excitement in  
his  
own life is to bum a dime from somewhere, call up the  
FBI.  
Say "FBI?", they say "Yes", say "I think Uncle Ho and  
Chair-

man Mao and their friends are comin' over for dinner"  
(click)  
Hang up the phone.

And within two minutes, and not two minutes from  
when he  
hangs up the phone, but two minutes from when he  
first put  
the dime in, they got 30,000 feet of tape rollin'; files on  
tape;  
pictures, movies, dramas, actions on tape. But then  
they send  
out a half a million people all over the entire world, the  
globe,  
they find out all they can about this guy.

'Cause there's a number of questions involved in the  
guy. I  
mean, if he was the last guy in the world, how'd he get  
a dime  
to call the FBI? There are plenty of people that aren't  
the last  
guys that can't get dimes. He comes along and he gets  
a dime.

I mean, if he had to bum a dime to call the FBI, how was  
he  
gonna serve dinner for all of those people? How could  
the  
last guy make dinner for all those people. And if he  
could  
make dinner, and was gonna make dinner, then why  
did he  
call the FBI?

They find out all of those questions within two minutes.  
And  
that's a great thing about America. I mean, this is the  
only  
country in the world...I mean, well, it's not the only  
country  
in the world that could find stuff out in two minutes, but  
it's  
the only country in the world that would take two  
minutes  
for that guy.

Other countries would say "Hey, he's the last  
guy...screw  
him", you know? But in America, there is no  
discrimination,

and there is no hypocrisy, 'cause they'll get anybody.  
And that's  
a wonderful thing about America.

And that's why tonight I'd like to dedicate it to every FBI  
man in the audience. I know you can't say nothin', you  
know,  
you can't get up and say "Hi!" cause then everybody  
knows  
that you're an FBI man and that's a drag for you and  
your  
friends.

They're not really your friends, are they? I mean, so  
you can't  
get up and say nothin' 'cause other wise, you gotta get  
sent  
back to the factory and that's a drag for you and it's an  
expense for the government, and that's a drag for you.

We're gonna sing you this Christmas carol. It's for all  
you  
bastards out there in the audience tonight. It's called  
"The  
Pause of Mr. Claus".

Why do you sit there so strange?  
Is it because you are beautiful?  
You must think you are deranged  
Why do police guys beat on peace guys?

You must think Santa Clause weird  
He has long hair and a beard  
Giving his presents for free  
Why do police guys mess with peace guys?

Let's get Santa Clause 'cause;  
Santa Clause has a red suit  
He's a communist  
And a beard, and long hair  
Must be a pacifist  
What's in the pipe that he's smoking?

Mister Clause sneaks in your home at night.  
He must be a dope fiend, to put you up tight  
Why do police guys beat on peace guys?

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