

## Phil Ochs "Talking Birmingham Jam"

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Walkin' down to Birmingham  
Way down south in Dixie Land  
Oh, I thought that I would stop awhile  
Take a vacation southern style

Got some southern hospitality  
Down there in a southern hospital  
Oh, all the signs said welcome in  
Signed by Governor Wallace and Rin-Tin-Tin

They said come along and watch the fights  
While we feed our dogs on civil rights  
Now, don't get us wrong  
Some of our best Negroes are friends

Well I've seen travelin' many ways  
I've traveled in cars and old subways  
But in Birmingham some people chose  
To fly down the street from a fire hose

Doin' some hard travelin'  
From hydrants of plenty  
Well, a pack of dogs was standin' by  
I walked up to them and I said, "Hi"

I asked one dog what they all were doin'  
He walked up to me and started chewin'  
I said, "Hold it, I'm from the A.S.P.C.A.  
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Agitators"

And I said, "There must be some men around  
There can't be only you dogs in town"  
They said, sure, we have old Bull Conner  
There he goes walkin' yonder

Throwin' some raw meat to the Mayor  
Feedin' bones to the city council  
You know Governor Wallace doesn't mean no harm  
Can't you see he's got a lot of charm?

He protectin' us whites, both the rich and poor  
Standin' in the schoolhouse door

Crackin' jokes, talkin' to Huntley Brinkley  
Servin' jury duty, gettin' re-elected

So, I asked them why they spent their time  
With segregation on their mind  
They said, "If you don't like to live this way  
Get out of here, go back to the U.S.A  
Live with all them Russians and New York folksingers"

Some say they're past their darkest hour  
Those moderates are back in power  
Oh, they listen close with open ears  
They'll help us out in a couple of hundred years

But don't push 'em whatever you do  
Or else you'll get those extremists back in  
You see, Alabama is a sovereign state  
With sovereign dogs and sovereign hate

They stand for the Bible and Constitution  
They stand against communist revolution  
They say "It's Pinkoes like you that freed the slaves"  
And they're right

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