

No Man's Ballot

Lyrics: Gary McGath, Copyright 2001

Music: Eric Bogle, "No Man's Land"

Oh, how can I win this election campaign?
I feel it's so close that it drives me insane.
If I use enough lawyers there must be a way
Though we're still counting long past the vote casting day.

If we diddle the rules somehow I'll take the lead,
Tweak the counting till I have the votes that I need.
You all thought the election would be quick and clean,
But I'll drag it out so it's slow and obscene.

Chorus:

Did they punch the hole cleanly,
Did officials act meanly?
Were the voters too dumb to tell which line was which?
Did the protests rise up in a chorus?
Did the public say, "Why does Al bore us?"

If a ballot's not counted because it was bad,
Improperly punched with a still-hanging chad,
Then electoral law doesn't matter, you see,
We must count that vote — if the vote was for me!

No procedure can fix every error and doubt,
But that just doesn't matter, as long as I shout,
"Every vote must be counted" — and that is to say,
That the counting procedure must count things my way.

Chorus

It seems that I'm going to run out of time,
But if I'm not elected, that's really a crime,
So I'll play righteous victim, displaying my grief,
And imply that George Dubya's a vote-rigging thief.

It is really unfair that it came to an end.
I should keep on appealing until twenty-ten.
I'm sure that I'd win if they counted again,
And again and again and again and again.

Chorus