

The Girl Question

By: Joe Hill

Music by Charles M. Fillmore

A little girl was working
In a big department store.
Her little wage for food was spent;
Her dress was old and tore.
She asked the foreman for a raise,
So humbly and so shy.
And this is what
The foreman did reply:

"Why don't you get a beau?
Some nice old man, you know?
He'll give you money if you treat him right.
If he has lots of gold,
Don't mind if he is old.
Go get some nice old gentleman tonight."

The little girl then went to see
The owner of the store.
She told the story that he'd heard
So many times before.
The owner cried You are discharged!
Oh, what a big disgrace:
A ragged thing like you
Around my place."

"Why don't you get a beau?
A nice old man, you know?
He'll give you money if you treat him right.
If he has lots of gold,
Don't matter if he's old.
Go get some nice old gentleman tonight."

The little girl, she said:
"I know a man that can't be wrong.
I'll go and see the preacher
In the church where I belong."
She told him she was down and out
And had no place to stay.
And this is what
The holy man did say:

"Why don't you get a beau?
Some nice old man, you know?
He'll give you money if you treat him right.
If he has lots of gold,
Don't mind if he is old.
Go get some nice old gentleman tonight."

Next day while walking 'round
She saw a sign inside a hall.
It read The One Big Union
Will give liberty to all."
She said, "I'll join that union,
And I'll surely do my best."
And now she's gaily
Singing with the rest:

"Oh, workers, do unite
To crush the tyrant's might!
The One Big Union's banner is unfurled.
Come slaves from every land;
Come join this fighting band.
It's named Industrial Workers of the World!"

