

You Ain't Done Nothing If You Ain't Been Called a Red
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When I was just a little thing,
I used to love parades
With banners, bands, red balloons,
And maybe lemonade.
When I came home one May Day,
My neighbor's father said,
"Them marchers is all Commies!
Tell me, kid, are you a Red?"

Well, I didn't know just what he meant.
My hair back then was brown.
Our house was plain red brick
Like most others in the town.
So, I went and asked my momma
Why our neighbor called me Red.
My mommy took me on her knee,
And this is what she said:

"Well, you ain't done nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.
If you've marched or agitated,
Then you're bound to hear it said.
So, you might as well ignore it
Or love the word instead
'Cause you ain't been doing nothing
If you ain't been called a Red."

When I was growing up,
I had my troubles, I suppose,
When someone took exception
To my face or to my clothes
Or tried to cheat me on the job
Or hit me on the head.
When I organized to fight back,
Why, the stinkers called me Red.

And you ain't done nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.
If you've organized your workplace,
Then you're bound to hear it said.
So, you might as well ignore it
Or love the word instead
'Cause you ain't been doing nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.

When I was living on my own,
One apartment that I had
Had a lousy, rotten landlord.
Let me tell you, he was bad.
But when he tried to throw me out,
I rubbed my hands and said,
"You haven't seen a struggle
If you haven't fought a Red."

And you ain't done nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.
If you've organized your neighbors,
Then you're bound to hear it said.
So, you might as well ignore it
Or love the word instead
'Cause you ain't been doing nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.

Well, I keep on agitating

'Cause what else can you do?
Are you goin' to let those sons-of-bitches
Walk all over you?
My friend said, "You'll get fired
Hanging with that Commie mob."
I should be so lucky, buddy,
For I ain't got a job.

Oh, you ain't done nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.
If you've criticized anything,
Then you're bound to hear it said.
So, you might as well ignore it
Or love the word instead
'Cause you ain't been doing nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.

Well, I've been agitating now
For many years and more
For jobs and for equality,
And always against war.
I'll keep on agitating
As far as I can see.
And if that's what being Red is,
Well, it's good enough for me.

'Cause you ain't done nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.
If you've marched or agitated,
Then you're bound to hear it said.
So, you might as well ignore it
Or love the word instead
'Cause you ain't been doing nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.

Yes, you ain't been doing nothing
If you ain't been called a Red.