

## I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ARAB

(Tom Paxton)

I thought you just got off of the plane  
Desert sand still in your shoes  
The sand was probably Virginia Beach  
And you were from Newport News

I thought you were an Arab  
Saw the desert in your eyes  
I thought of asking for a job in Abu Dabi  
'Til you sprang that big surprise.

You handed me the money  
Just like an Arab does  
So I thought you were an Arab  
And all the time you were the fuzz.

I thought you were an Arab  
Desert Caliph or a sheik  
I thought I'd be your friend in Congress  
You'd be grateful, what a terrible mistake.

You handed me the money  
And that was all I saw  
So I thought you were an Arab  
And all the time you were the law.

Abdul was kinda obvious  
Now that I kinda think it through  
The way you spoke American without an accent  
Sure reflected well on you.

When you handed me the briefcase full of cash  
I accepted with a wink.  
You can catch it on the evening news you rat  
Now I'm headed for the clink.

I thought you were an Arab  
When you were really apple pie  
You had a little shopping list of Congressman  
And prominent upon the list was I.

I smiled for the camera  
I couldn't see it from my seat  
So I thought you were an Arab  
And all the time you were the heat.

You were Lawrence of the FBI  
You really played it to the hilt  
There'll be no mercy back in Jersey  
When you tell 'em how the fatal milk was spilt.

I thought you were Kings of the fabled East  
All you really were was bums  
I got caught with hand in the cookie jar  
Now my hand is full of crumbs.