

WE DIDN'T KNOW

by Tom Paxton

(E)We didn't know said the (A)Burgomeister,
 A(E)bout the camps on the (B7)edge of (E)town.
 It was Hitler (A)and his crew
 That (E) tore the German (B7)nation (E)down.
 (C#m)We saw the cattle cars it's true,
 And (E) maybe they carried a (B7)Jew or (E)two.
 They (C#m) woke us up as they rattled through,
 But (E) what did you ex(B7)pect me to (E)do?

CH: (E) We didn't know at all,
 (A) We didn't see a (E)thing
 You can't hold us to blame
 (F#) What could we (B7)do?
 (E) It was a terrible shame
 (A) But we can't bear the blame
 (E)Oh no, not (A) us, we didn't (B7)know(E).

We didn't know said the congregation
 Singing a hymn in their church of white
 The Press was full lf lies about us,
 Preacher told us we were right.
 The outside agitators came,
 They burned some chruches and put the blame
 On decent southern people's names,
 To set our colored people aflame,
 And maybe some of our boys got hot
 And a couple of niggers and reds got shot
 They should have stayed where they belong
 And preacher would've told us if we'd done wrong.

CH

We didn't know said the puzzled voter,
 Watching the President on TV.
 I guess we've got to drop those bombs
 If we're gonna keep South Asia free.
 The President's such a peaceful man,
 I guess he's got some kind of plan,
 They say we're torturing prisoners of war,
 But I don't believe that stuff no more,
 Torturing prisoners is a communist game
 And You can bet they're doing the same.
 I wish this war was over and through,
 But what do you expect me to do?

CH