

# Phil Ochs Quotes

*Men, Politics, America, War, Song, Lying, People, Land, Years, Art,  
Inspirational, Color, Boys, Love, Country, Media, Evil, Reality, Fall, Struggle*

A protest song is a song that's so specific that you cannot mistake it for bullshit.

~Phil Ochs

America is two Mack trucks colliding on a superhighway because all the drivers are on amphetamines.

~Phil Ochs

In such ugly times, the only true protest is beauty.

~Phil Ochs

One good song with a message can bring a point more deeply to more people than a thousand rallies.

~Phil Ochs

And if there's any hope for America, it lies in a revolution, and if there's any hope for a revolution in America, it lies in getting Elvis Presley to become Che Guevara.

~Phil Ochs

Even though you can't expect to defeat the absurdity of the world, you must make that attempt.

~Phil Ochs

The fortunes of the entire world may well ride on the ability of young Americans to face the responsibilities of an old America gone mad.

~Phil Ochs

It's always the old to lead us to the war. It's always the young to fall.

~Phil Ochs

Love is a rainbow curving down from the sky, falling crystals of color, shades of warm that never die.

~Phil Ochs

The truest protest is beauty.

~Phil Ochs

The final story, the final chapter of Western man, I believe, lies in Los Angeles.

~Phil Ochs

You can do right or you can do what you are told. And the prize of the victory will belong to the bold.

~Phil Ochs

Maybe we should raise our voices, ask somebody why. But demonstrations are a drag, besides we're much too high.

~Phil Ochs

Evil is done in hopes that evil surrenders, but the deeds of the devil are burned too deep in the embers, and world of hunger in vengeance will always remember.

~Phil Ochs

Step outside the guidelines of the official umpires and make your own rules and your own reality.

~Phil Ochs

There is an urgent need for Americans to look deeply into themselves and their actions, and musical poetry is perhaps the most effective mirror available. Every newspaper headline is a potential song.

~Phil Ochs

Show me the prison, Show me the jail, Show me the prisoner whose life has gone stale. And I'll show you a young man with so many reasons why And there, but for fortune, go you or I.

~Phil Ochs

It is wrong to expect a reward for your struggles. The reward is the act of struggle itself, not what you win.

~Phil Ochs

Does defending liberalism leave you friendless and perhaps wondering about your breath?

~Phil Ochs

God help the troubadour who tries to be a star. The more that you try to find success, the more that you will fail.

~Phil Ochs

Beneath the greatest love lies a hurricane of hate.

~Phil Ochs

When they show the destruction of society on color TV, I want to be able to look out over Los Angeles and make sure they get it right.

~Phil Ochs

Leaving America is like losing twenty pounds and finding a new girlfriend.

~Phil Ochs

Some people never get their feet on the ground, They're either sitting in a chair or they're laying down.

~Phil Ochs

Call it peace or call it treason / call it love or call it reason / but I ain't marching anymore

~Phil Ochs

Well I've seen travel in many ways I've traveled in cars and old subways  
But in Birmingham some people chose  
To fly down the street from a fire hose.  
Doin' some hard travelin'...from hydrants of plenty.

~Phil Ochs

In the town of Bethlehem many years ago, a man got religion and he changed the status quo.

~Phil Ochs

The only way to Cuba is with the CIA.

~Phil Ochs

One legged veterans will greet the dawn, and they're whistling marches as they mow the lawn, and the gargoyles on sit and grieve.

~Phil Ochs

If you ever get a war without blood and gore, well, I'll be the first to go.

~Phil Ochs

I'm gonna give all I've got to give  
Cross my heart, and I hope to live.

~Phil Ochs

So good to be alive when the eulogies are read.

~Phil Ochs

I wonder who I left behind on the other side of fame.

~Phil Ochs

I can spare a dime, brother, but in these morally inflationary times, a dime goes a lot farther if it's demanding work rather than adding to the indignity of relief.

~Phil Ochs

Is there anybody here who thinks that following the orders takes away the blame  
Is there anybody here who wouldn't mind a murder by another name?

~Phil Ochs

In the state of Mississippi, Many Years Ago, a boy of 14 years got a taste of Southern law.

~Phil Ochs

God isn't dead - he's just missing in action.

~Phil Ochs

The people who carried the burden, who marked in strange field in search of an answer, and ended their journeys an unwilling hero.

~Phil Ochs

Mother Goose is on the loose, stealing lines from Lenny Bruce.

~Phil Ochs

And I won't be laughing at the lies when I'm gone  
And I can't question how or when or why when I'm gone  
Can't live proud enough to die when I'm gone  
So I guess I'll have to do it while I'm here.

~Phil Ochs

Show me a country where the bombs had to fall  
Show me the ruins of buildings so tall  
And I'll show you a young land  
With many reasons why  
There but for fortune, go you or I  
You or I.

~Phil Ochs

The painter paints his brushes black, Through the canvas runs a crack,  
Portrait of the pain never answers back...

~Phil Ochs

The only possibility in the United States for a humane society would be a revolution with Elvis Presley as leader.

~Phil Ochs

I like Hitler, jolly jolly Hitler.

~Phil Ochs

She's staring down her desires, while they're staring down her dress.

~Phil Ochs

Comfort his family with a telegram, we regret to inform you we lost a man, but we gave him the highest medal of the land.

~Phil Ochs

Only as strong as our love for this land, only as tall as we stand.

~Phil Ochs

The glory that was Lincoln's never died when he was slain.

~Phil Ochs

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