Legal Illegal Ewan MacColl

Ewan MacColl & Peggy Seeger - Legal Illegal

C# G# C# Every time you pick up a newspaper F# C# G#7 Every time you turn on the TV F# F# C# C# You can bet your old boots that at some point you ll see G# F# G#7 A high ranking copper or else an MP C# G# F# C# Calling on all who are British and free G#7 C# To stand up and defend law and order

It s illegal to rip off a payroll It s illegal to hold up a train But it s legal to rip off a million or two That comes from the labour that other folks do To plunder the many on behalf of the few Is a thing that is perfectly legal

It s illegal to kill off a landlord Or to trespass upon his estate But to charge a high rent for a slum is OK To condemn 2 adults and 3 children to stay In a hovel that s rotten with damp and decay Is a thing that is perfectly legal

If your job turns you into a zombie Then it s legal to feel some despair But don t be aggressive that is if you re smart And for Christ s sake don t upset the old apple cart Remember the boss has your interests at heart And it grieves him to see you unhappy

If you fashion a bomb in your kitchen You re guilty of breaking the law But a bloody great nuclear plant is OK Though plutonium processing hastens the day When this tiny little isle may be blasted away Nonetheless it is perfectly legal

It s illegal if you are a Gypsy To camp by the side of the road But it s proper and right for the rich and the great To live in a mansion or own an estate That was got from the people by pillage and rape That s what they call a tradition

It s illegal to carve up your missus Or put poison in your old man s tea But poison the rivers, the seas and the skies And poison the mind of a nation with lies If it s done in the interest of free enterprise Then it s proper and perfectly legal

It s legal to join a trade union And to picket is one of your rights But don t be offensive when scabs cross the line Be nice to the coppers and keep this in mind To picket effectively that is a crime Worse than if you had murdered your mother

C# G# C# It s legal to sing on the telly C# F# G#7 But they make bloody sure that you don t F# C# F# C# If you sing about racists and fascists and creeps G# F# G#7 And thieves in high places that live off the weak C# G# F# C# And those who are selling us right up the creek C# The twisters, the takers, the conmen, the fakers G#7 C# The whole bloody gang of exploiters!