

Brian Odlum / Composer

Trouble Every Day

Inspired (rather obviously) by Frank Zappa's song of the same name (from the first album of the Mothers of Invention, "Freak Out!"), the lyrics of this title have been re-written to express the authors anger and frustration regarding United States foreign policy in Iraq and around the world. The origin of the musical genre "Rap" is of course debatable, but Brian nominates Zappa's "Trouble Every Day" (1966) as one of the first commercial examples of what would soon after become the worlds most popular form of musical expression. Few, however, have done it as musically as Frank.

LYRICS:

Well I'm about to get upset from watchin' my TV,
from checkin' out the news that only lies to you and me
It blabs of wealth and freedom in our great democracy
that presently is threatened by a foe that we can't see

The world has turned deadly and the powers that decreed it
have been planning this for 60 years yet no-one had foreseen it
Their agenda has been hidden while maintaining the facade
of democracy intact while they enacted their jihad

So I'm watchin' and I'm waitin' hopin' for the best
but I fear that's not an option 'cause our government's the problem
and there's no way to delay that trouble comin' every day
no way to delay that trouble comin' every day

Keep the people at a fever with patriotic fervor
telling lies that only further our nationalistic stupor
and truth is manufactured for total mass consumption
claiming justice and benevolence as a national assumption

But you seldom hear the stories 'bout the countries we've invaded
or the people that were butchered while we sat there constipated
for the democratic outcome we're always told will follow
'till the media loses interest 'cause the truth is hard to swallow

That millions become jobless and cannot feed their families
while the wealthy make the deals that divide their precious country
selling off the public treasures that were built with sweat and taxes
for a trifle on the dollar while our government relaxes

In mass deregulation with extreme privatization
and the wealthy just get richer while the masses suffer sanctions
and workers lose their pensions and their children's education
and health and sanitation become pressing aggravations
that get lost in growing tension and explode in insurrection

So I'm watchin' and I'm waitin' hopin' for the best
but there ain't no use in prayin' 'cause our country is displayin'
all the features of decay that seem to grow more every day
No way to delay that trouble comin' every day

When Zappa wrote this song he spoke of mass stupidity
but today we call it somethin' else HOMELAND SECURITY
which thinks the population should be under observation
to watch for signs of treason that need no rhyme or reason

Don't you know you'll go to prison if some agent thinks you've risen
to the cause of spreading terror in HIS MIND there is no error
and traditional due process which was there to help PROTECT us
is discarded just like justice and Posse Comitatus

In the middle of the night while their deeds are out of sight
Agents crash right through your door and drag you screaming to the floor
and put a barrel to your temple while they bind you like an animal
with you wife and children watching while the soldiers all are taunting

As your family begs for mercy in a language they can't translate
they drag you naked to the street just following their mandate
Then they haul you off to prison or some hell you can't imagine
where extracting your confession has no limits of transgression
using grim electrocution under harsh interrogation

Take a look at all the countries the CIA's invaded
since the agency was started the carnage has pervaded
Iran and Indonesia Uruguay and Argentina
Italy and Guatemala the Congo, Nicaragua

The list's so god-damned long I don't have room in this short song
for more than passing mention of the death squads and detention
used to suppress all dissension by the generals of pretension
who tortured their own people while we watched in indignation
not caring that those leaders were our government's selection

We think we are immune because our country does not fear
the global terror we've unleashed could ever happen here
but laws have been enacted the machinery's in place
the infrastructure's ready it's a national disgrace

The bankers all are laughing while they plan their next disaster
to keep us poor and servile to our plutocratic masters
the next time that the deal goes down they'll take the shirt you're wearing
and detain you in a holding cell until you start despairing
and if they should decide that your religion, creed or race
might represent a threat you'll disappear without a trace

So I'm watchin' and I'm waitin' hopin' for the best
but there ain't no use in prayin' 'cause our country is displayin'
all the features of decay that seem to grow more every day
no way to delay that debt we're gonna' have to pay

Well folks I may be angry but I still have one suggestion
instead of trading freedom for some meaningless "protection"
or joining up as soldiers for imperialist aggression
and rotting in our fantasy of uninformed deception
that instead of taking lives for some ideal that enslaves us
start to read and learn the truth and together fight AGAINST it

The military complex and the corporate institutions
that impose their brutal taxes and extract your contributions
might decide that you are dangerous and arrange your execution

It's time that we remembered that our precious Constitution
was born of righteous anger and bloody revolution

So I'm watchin' and I'm waitin' hopin' for the best
while freedom of expression has become an indiscretion
no way to delay that debt we're gonna' have to pay
no way to delay that trouble comin' every day