MISTER WILSON
lyrics © 1990 by Daphne Rackstraw
sung to the tune of
"Will the Circle be Unbroken?"

I was standing by my window,
It was a dark and cloudy day,
When I heard that Michael Wilson
Say he’d take my money away.

CHORUS: Mr. Wilson, Michael Wilson,
Won’t you please pay heed to me?
I don’t want it, I don’t need it,
I won’t pay your G.S.T.

For the benefit of readers outside Canada, and
Canadians who’ve spent a long time in sensory
deprivation tanks lately, the “G.S.T.” is the Goods
and Services Tax (7 per cent) which our current
government (of which Michael Wilson is Finance
Minister) is determined to foist upon us come
1991. So these lyrics are not without their own
version of pathos, horror and morbidity . . .

Forestalling readers’ comments concerning the
last line: I’m reliably informed that, in poetry and
song, sexist language may be retained if non-sexist
language doesn’t scan.

-Ch.L.

CHORUS

I can’t sleep nights, I guess I’m worried,
I don’t want an early grave;
I shop at thrift stores, you buy Gucci,
Don’t you tell me how to save.

CHORUS

Times are tough, Lord, the debt grows higher,
And I know someone must pay,
But not me, Lord, try corporations;
There has to be a better way.

CHORUS

So put the curb on government spending,
Cut first class trips with fancy meals,
Cinch your belt a little tighter,
Try to feel what the working man feels.

CHORUS

Daphne wrote this song while preparing to play
for an audience of seniors and handicapped people,
with a group of jamming friends who hadn’t had a
lot of practice time. “Will the Circle be
Unbroken?” was a good familiar tune that
everyone knew, but she felt the lyrics were too
morbid for that particular audience, so she came up
with these words.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In 1945 I began a radio show in New York City
which has continually presented Canadian performers
from Alanis Obomsawin to Gordon Lightfoot. It is still
on – a radio record. It’s called the Folksong Festival
and is heard every Sunday evening from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m.

I am a member of the Canadian Society of
Musical Traditions and I am looking for some in-
formation on a musical instrument, uilleann pipes
(or the Irish bag-pipes). I know of a person in
Nova Scotia who builds and plays them (Jon
Goodman of Halifax). I was wondering if there is
any one else in Canada who plays, builds, sells,
etc., uilleann pipes, or maybe you may have some
literature or addresses. I know this is a rare art in
Ireland and a very rare art here in Canada. I have
some blueprints to build pipes and I hope to build
my own in the future.

Any information will be appreciated regardless
of how little you may provide.

Neil O’Grady
P.O. Box. 405
Carbonear, Nfld.
A0A 1T0

[The letter has been passed on to the Instrumental
Music Associate Editor: perhaps we’ll see
something in print in the future – Ed.]
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