

# Lyndon Johnson Told The Nation

Tom Paxton

I got a letter from L.B.J  
It said, "This is your lucky day"  
It's time to put your khaki trousers on  
Though it may seem very queer  
We've got no jobs to give you here  
So we are sending you to Vietnam

Lyndon Johnson told the nation  
Have no fear of escalation  
I am trying everyone to please  
Though it isn't really war  
We're sending fifty thousand more  
To help save Vietnam from the Vietnamese

I jumped off the old troop ship  
And sank in mud up to my hips  
I cussed until the captain called me down  
Never mind how hard it's raining  
Think of all the ground we're gaining  
Just don't take one step outside of town

Lyndon Johnson told the nation  
Have no fear of escalation  
I am trying everyone to please  
Though it isn't really war  
We're sending fifty thousand more  
To help save Vietnam from the Vietnamese

Every night the local gentry  
Slip out past the sleeping sentry  
They go to join the old V C  
In their nightly little dramas  
They put on their black pajamas  
And come lobbing mortar shells at me

When Lyndon Johnson told the nation  
Have no fear of escalation  
I am trying everyone to please  
Though it isn't really war  
We're sending fifty thousand more  
To help save Vietnam from the Vietnamese

We go round in helicopters  
Like a bunch of big grasshoppers  
Searching for the Viet Cong in vain  
They left a note that they had gone  
They had to get down to Saigon  
Their government positions to maintain

And Lyndon Johnson told the nation  
Have no fear of escalation  
I am trying everyone to please  
Though it isn't really war  
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To help save Vietnam from the Vietnamese

Well, here I sit in this rice paddy

Wondering about Big Daddy  
And I know that Lyndon loves me so  
Yet how sadly I remember  
Way back yonder in November  
When he said I'd never have to go

And Lyndon Johnson told the nation  
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I am trying everyone to please  
Though it isn't really war  
We're sending fifty thousand more  
To help save Vietnam from the Vietnamese