

Johnson, I heard tell you wanted a word with me  
Funny thing, I wanted a word with you  
Now with my Joe Hopper gone forever  
The kids and me all helter-skelter  
Johnson, we've been wonderin' what we'll do

Johnson, you're the one that gave the order  
You're the one that sealed off Number Ten  
Said the fire was set on spreadin'  
You didn't have no choice you said and  
Johnson, that was that for thirty man

That was my Joe Hopper down that shaft  
Wasn't supposed to work that shift  
But my Joe reckoned he had the gift  
Of seeing a hard job through

The last I seen of Joe, he laughed  
He told me I was to make my claim  
Ever the worst of fortune came  
Then I was to come to you

Johnson, my Joe worked for the company nineteen years  
Back all bent, hands that'd make you cry  
Crippled hands and a worn-out back  
Family freezin' in a company shack  
Johnson, that ain't hardly gettin' by

Now you tell me Johnson that we got to go  
You tell me I can't trade at the company store  
You'd let us stay if was up to you  
Johnson, one thing can do  
You can tell these kids, they ain't got a home no more

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