I got a letter from the government The other day Opened it and read it It said they were suckers They wanted me for their army or whatever Picture me givin' a damn, I said never Here is a land that never gave a damn About a brother like myself Because I never did I wasn't wit' it, but just that very minute... It occurred to me The suckers had authority Cold sweatin' as I dwell in my cell How long has it been? They got me sittin' in the state pen I gotta get out, but that thought was thought before I contemplated a plan on the cell floor I'm not a fugitive on the run But a brother like me begun, to be another one Public enemy servin' time, they drew the line y'all They criticize me for some crime I got a letter, I got a letter, I got a letter Picture me given' a damn, I said never Mmm... mmm... mmm It occurred to me The suckers had authority Cold sweatin' as I dwell in my cell How long has it been? They got me sittin' in the state pen I gotta get out, but that thought was thought before I got a letter from the government The other day Opened it and read it It said they were suckers They wanted me for their army or whatever Picture me givin' a damn, I said never Here is a land that never gave a damn About a brother like me and myself Because I never did I wasn't wit' it, but just that very minute... It occurred to me The suckers had authority Cold sweatin' as I dwell in my cell How long has it been? They got me sittin' in the state pen I gotta get out, but that thought was thought before I contemplated a plan on the cell floor I'm not a fugitive on the run I'm not a fugitive on the run Many switch in, switch on, switch off Nevertheless they could not understand That I'm a black man, and I could never be a veteran On the strength of situations, I'm real

I got a raw deal, so I'm lookin' for the steel

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