



The Creekdippers **"Political Manifest"** Mercy Recordings/Creekdipper Records

This eleven-song collection contains nine original, *themed songs*, penned by Mark Olson, and is completed by two traditional numbers. Of the latter pairing, the lead vocal on "My Father Knows Foes" is taken by Victoria Williams, Olson's wife, while The Creekdippers drummer, Ray Woods, is the main vocalist, supported by Vic and Mark, on the closing track "Coming, Coming." The traditional songs were arranged by Victoria Williams, and "My Father Knows Foes" [based on the 1905 hymn "He Knows It All"] is a prayer for guidance and a righteous victory, while "Coming, Coming," a song of gathering [of all nations] in shared faith, is also based upon a hymn, "Coming, Coming, Yes, They Are."

With regard to the *theme* that pervades Olson's originals, it's a case of, *that man and his administration*. That is, the occupants of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. for, almost, the past four years. George Walker Bush is referenced, directly by name, in the swampy beat of the opening cut "Poor GW," "George Bush Industriale" – in which the narrator claims *"Your folks were in the petrochemical business and PVC did my old man in,"* while, in "Portrait Of A Sick America" the combative narrator offers *"I'm going to stuff the sermon on the mount down his throat."* Victoria Williams takes the lead vocal on "Senator Byrd Speech" – *"He said he came from West Virginia, He had seen a lot in his day, Just to make sure people would understand him, He rubbed the constitution in their face"* – and is dedicated to the *vision* of Senator Robert C. Byrd who has served, uninterrupted, as Democratic senator for West Virginia since 1958. As for "The End Of The Highway Rumsfeld," I guess the line *"You're a sorry silly man with a pocketful of mumbles"* gives a hint as to Olson's personal assessment of the nation's Secretary Of Defense.

While some of the foregoing songs, lyrically indulge in name-calling [sadly, in some instances, in what comes across as juvenile], the quartet "Walk With Them," "Duck Hunting," "Where Is My Baby Boy" and "Saw Song" display far greater maturity. "Where Is My Baby," in particular, is a powerful *war is hell* sermon, while in "Saw Song" Olson tellingly focuses on Palestine, the environment and more.

In a similar vein to this Creekdippers recording, the material on Steve Earle's forthcoming **"The Revolution Starts....Now"** focuses upon politics and the actions of politicians at home, as well as America's part in recent events on foreign soil. The disc will be released in late August in the States by Artemis Records. And there's more....the Portland, Oregon imprint Waterbug Records will soon release to radio, a compilation of *politically themed songs*. America, the time to call it approaches.....

Currently this album is available on the web at <http://www.creekdipper.com/merch.htm> and from Mercy Recordings at <http://www.mercyrecordings.com> Mercy Recordings is an off-shoot of the House of Mercy Church founded in 1996, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The lyrics to Olson's **"Political Manifest"** songs are posted on the web at <http://www.politicalmanifest.com/>

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

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