Woody Guthrie, "Mean Talkin' Blues" (1935)

During the 1930s, folk singer Woody Guthrie traveled back and forth across the country collecting and singing songs about the economic suffering of Americans. In this song, he described the role of unions in the terrible economic conflict between ordinary poor Americans and American businesses.

Mean Talkin' Blues (excerpt)

Well, if I can get the fat to hatin' the lean  
That'd tickle me more than anything I've seen,  
Then I'd get the colors to fightin' one another,  
Friend against friend, and sister against brother,  
That'll be it, the striped against the polka dots,  
That'll be just it,  
Everybody's brains a-boilin' in turpentine,  
And their teeth fallin' out all up and down the sidewalks,  
That'll just suit me -  
I ain't no union man,.  
Because I hate everything that's organized and planned,  
I love to hate and I hate to love!  
I'm mean....