

Hymn to Comparative Advantage
by ET and the Boy
Capo +1

Chords: C G F G | C G F G | C G F G | am G F G |
dm C G am | F C E A7 |

The New York Times says “Why can’t we compete with global industry?
It is the teachers’ union turning our kids’ brains to mush
If kids aren’t learning in first grade, they’re bound to grow up underpaid
So don’t blame NAFTA, GATT, or CAFTA, Clinton, Bush, or Bush
From Pittsburgh out to old Motown
The factories have all shut down
Replaced by sweatshops overseas
Where the kids all have advanced degrees

So I asked my Gramps about the time he worked out on the factory line
And earned a decent wage; I guess the schools were better then
He said, “Half the guys that I recall, they didn’t graduate at all
Although in many ways I’d call them educated men
It didn’t take a Ph.D.
To learn our solidarity
We won those wages struggling hard
And carrying a union card”

I said, “Okay, but that was then and now your factory’s in Shenzen
We’re losing ground, we can’t compete with workers over there”
He said, “You won’t win until you see what is the real class enemy
And join in struggle arm in arm with workers everywhere
I know that’s harder done than said
Don’t envy you the fight ahead
But I’m glad you’ve got a teacher who
Knows what a strong union can do

“So when the New York Times says ‘Why can’t we compete with global industry?’
You tell ‘em that we won’t let them divide us anymore
We’re settling for nothing less than bread and roses, art and rest
And schools and work for everyone from Prague to Bangalore”