

How's your Constitution?

Twelve score years and ten ago, a new nation was conceived.
We need a republic not a monarchy, it was commonly believed.
The king of the day in his palace far away
Didn't care about the USA,
So it all started when some rich white men
Got themselves some paper and a pen,
And drew up a three-point plan.

First came the Congress, gentlemen elected and true;
They make the laws and hold the purse, that's mostly what they do.

The second thing mustn't be a king, but we need something of that kind,
So let's invent the President for what we have in mind.
He gets four years to do his worst,
If the mid-terms don't constrain him first,
And if he's mad or very, very bad and we need to get him out,
The courts cannot reach him, but the Congress can impeach him,
Which they're not very good about.

Congress and President don't always agree
So the third thing we need is a referee.
Nine top judges make a court Supreme;
The meaning of the law is what they deem.

So proudly the rich white men present
The ideal form of government:
Of the people
By the people
For the people
Shall not perish from the earth.

Liberty, Democracy, Slaves and Hypocrisy! USA! USA!

The Constitution worked quite well, but not always as intended,
So the rich white men said, 'Sure as hell, it needs to be amended.'

There are twenty-seven amendments to date,
Most of them small but some of them great.
If you're visiting America, before you go,
Here are a few you ought to know.

The First Amendment lets you speak free,
Flaky new religion, wild conspiracy,
Truth, lies, aliens, hate speech, the lot.
Could we sing this song?
- Probably not.

The Second Amendment lets you bear arms
Crazy or sane, no matter who it harms.
If you weren't accepted where you went to school,

Shooting them all could feel quite cool.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Thoughts and prayers, thoughts and prayers, thoughts and prayers ...
[It's what Jesus would have wanted, honey]

Lemonade, lemonade, ...
The Eighteenth Amendment says, 'NO BOOZE'
On the rocks, on the rocks, ...
The Twenty-first Amendment says, 'GO BOOZE'
On the rocks, on the rocks, ...

The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery,
But changing a law doesn't change society.

So how's the Constitution two-fifty years along?
All the main components are still going strong.
Congress, President and Supreme Court
Work, but not as first was thought.

You may run for Congress if you've got the cash
Because you won't get in unless you've made a splash;
If you aren't wealthy, it's donors that you lack,
And if you get elected, you'll have to pay them back.

The President today in his palace far away
Doesn't care about the USA,
If you're a US businessman, he'll listen to you BUT
He won't help you unless he gets a cut.

Supreme Court judges, appointed for life,
Sit above the political strife.
The President selects them, so he's quite sure
The number who oppose him is getting fewer.

After all these years, it's still evident
The US has the ideal government:
Of the people
By the wealthy
For the wealthy
All the rest can just stay poor.

Who's a republic now?