

# No

Loudon Wainwright III

You can say no  
To the beggar in the street  
And to the zealot with the blissed-out smile  
No to the dog and the parakeet  
No to the crying child

You can say no  
To the waiter who's pushing the twelve-day old cole slaw  
You can say no  
To your uncle or your brother  
Your father or your father-in-law

You can answer no  
To a Gallup poll  
And vote no in a voting booth  
You can refuse the facts  
You can refute the truth

No on the load of your lawn mower

To the neighbor who lives next door  
You can say no to the bartender  
When he starts to pour one more

But you can't no  
No, to that woman  
No, to that woman

You can say no  
To the bully or the boss  
Fat belly with the big cigar  
You can say no  
To the sergeant-at-arms  
And the Sheriff with the shining star

You can say no  
To sure success  
You can say no  
To the devil in the desert  
And you can say no to yourself