

Oh, Mr Nash (New Zealand, 1960)

Words by Tom Lehrer:

- Introductory remarks published in John Berry: *Seeing Stars - A Study of Show Folk in New Zealand* (Seven Seas, Wellington, 1964)
- Lyrics published in the *Auckland Star*, 16 April 1960.

Music by Robbie Ellis after:

- Ted Secker: "On the Ball"
- Thomas Bracken & John Joseph Woods: "God Defend New Zealand"
- Alfred Hill: "Waiata Poi"
- Cornelis Jacobus Langenhoven & Marthinus Lourens de Villiers: "Die Stem van Suid-Afrika"

Recording credits:

Robbie Ellis - vocals, piano, arrangement, production

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/3gvueA3Ed2V394Yu7yCrPt>

<https://music.apple.com/us/artist/robbie-ellis/1270629306>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/robbieellis>

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At this juncture of the evening's symposium, I wish to pay tribute to the New Zealand Rugby Football Union—for not allowing a little thing like human dignity to interfere with the great principles of the game.

I have read the statement by your Prime Minister, and it made me feel an awful lot better about Eisenhower.

When the early missionaries first brought Rugby to New Zealand,
It became the state religion right away,
And to the ten commandments has been added an eleventh,
And it says: No matter what – thou shalt play!

Oh, Mr Nash, why so rash?
Is the Rugby Union so hard up for cash?
Though you talk about the Māori
In your phrases sweet and flow'ry
I'm afraid you've missed the point, Mr Nash.

When the team goes to South Africa, we all must act politely,
So to all their local problems, let's be mute.
It might be a friendly gesture as a token of affection
If we brought along some blacks for them to shoot.

Oh, Mr Nash, why so rash?
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Though you talk about the Māori
In your phrases sweet and flow'ry
I'm afraid you've missed the point, Mr Nash.

No, it doesn't really matter what New Zealand may have lost,
As long as Kiwi Rugby players are supreme,
And just think how glad they'd make us if they came back with the title
Of the World's Greatest Non-Pigmented Team!

Oh, Mr Nash, why so rash?
Is the Rugby Union so hard up for cash?
Though you talk about the Māori
In your phrases sweet and flow'ry
I'm afraid you've missed the point, Mr Nash.