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TCHULA MISSISSIPPI, 1984
(Dedicated to Mayor Eddie Carthan)*

by

Robin D.G. Kelley

Where they takin' you my brother?
Don't forget now, you got a town to run.
 We votin' now,
 Runnin' things like we should've
 Many years back.
But where you goin'?
You got a town to run.

We a free people now.
We done chose you with the ballot
 'cause the white folks 'round here
 can't do nothin' no more.
 Finally, the chains are gone.
We Free. . .

But ya still ain't said where you goin'!
Now ain't the time.
You got a town to run.

We so proud to see our police force
standin' there-a-next to you,
 side by side,
 arm and arm,
 like black and white ought to be. . .

But ya can't leave with them.
Don't you remember?
you got a town to run.

WAIT!!!!

*They done cuffed you!
Treatin' you like a regular nigger!*

THE WHITE FOLKS GONE CRAZY!

*Mayor Eddie Carthan was the first elected Black Mayor in Tchula, Mississippi, 1980. Soon after his election, he was imprisoned on trumped up charges. (Ed. F.D.)

*They can't put you in the jailhouse.
They can't put you on the rock pile.
You got to be here with us,
makin' sure we be free,
keepin' the white folks
off our backs.*

Don't they understand, my brother?
We got a town to run. . .