John Denver and Steve Goodman

Ridin' on the City of New Orleans

Am F
Illinois Central, Monday Mornin' rail

There's Fifteeen cars and fifteen restless riders

Am C
Three conductors, twenty-five sacks of mail

All along the southbound odyssey

The train pulls out at Kankakee

and rolls along past houses, farms and fields

Am

Passesnger trains that have no names

Freightyards full of old black men

And the graveyards of the rusted automobiles

Good mornin' America, how are you?

Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son?

I'm the train the call the City of New Orleans

I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done

(turn page!)

Dealing card games with the old men in the club car

Au
Penny a poilnt, ain't ho-one keepin' score

Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle

Feel the wheels, fumblin' 'neath the floor

And the sons of Pullman porters

And the sons of engineers

Ride their fathers' magic carpet made of steel

And Mothers with their babes asleep

EM

Rockin' to the gentle beat

And the rhythm of the rails is all the feel

Good mornin' America, how are you?

Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son

I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans

I'll be gone five-hundred miles when the day is ione

Nighttime on the City of New Orleans

Am
Changin' cars in Memphis, Tennessee

Half-way home, we'll be there by mornin'
Through the Mississippi darkness,

Rollin' down to the Sea

But all the towns and people seem

To fade into a bad dream

And the steel rail still ain't heard the news

The conflictor sings his songs again

"The passengers will please refrain . ."

"This train's got the Disappearin' Railroad Blues."

Goodnight, America, how are you?

Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son?

I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans

I'll be gone five-hundred files when the day is done.