

ing, or even *supposed* to be sleeping. With great animation they sang along, particularly the verse that is often added to the song: "Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine!"

Another dimension of this song is its appeal to the inner strength of its singers, its declaration of humanity held sacred under all conditions. When the great Mississippi civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, a religious woman in touch with the old songs, lifted her voice in song frequently during the 1960s movement, this was one of her favorites. Mrs. Hamer and her Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party failed in their challenge to the seating of the state's racist, all-white delegation at the 1964 National Democratic Convention. But the full force of this song and its singers was memorably employed during at least one episode of that battle.

## *Wade in the Water*

*Traditional Spiritual*

Chorus

Wade— in the wa-ter, Wade— in the wa-ter, chil-dren,  
(chil-dren)

Wade— in the wa-ter, God's-a-going to trou-ble the wa-ter. *Fine*