Illegal Smile by John Prine (1971)

C Am

C G/B F/A C/G
When I woke up this morning, things were lookin' bad
F C C/G(½) G7(½) C
seems like total silence is the only friend I have
G F C(¾) F(¼) C
a bowl of oatmeal tried to stare me down...and won
G F C(¾) F(¼) C
and it was twelve o'clock before I realized that I was havin' no fun
G C F(½) G7(½) C
but fortunately I have the key to escape reali ty

slow and change to ¾ time *F F C C*
and you may see me tonight with an illegal smile
G7 G7 C C
it don't cost very much, but it lasts a long while
F F C C
won't you please tell the man I didn't kill anyone
G F C(2) F(1) (repeat 4X)
no I was just tryin' to have me some fun
last time some fun, well done, hot dog fun, my sister's a nun.

last time I checked my bankroll, well it was gettin' thin
sometimes it seems like the bottom is the only place I've been
chased a rainbow down a one-way street... dead end
and all my friends turned out to be insurance salesmen
but fortunately I have the key to escape reality

I sat down in my closet with all my overalls
just tryin' to get away from all the ears inside these walls
dreamed the police heard everything I thought... what then?
well I went to court and the judge's name was Hoffman
but fortunately I have the key to escape reality