

Who killed Michael Taylor?

He was just 16 years old
when he was caught in a crime.
No one knew it would be his last day
or time.

Was Michael Taylor a bad seed,
or was he just mis-led?
It really doesn't matter does it
because Michael Taylor is dead.

He stood there like a tourist in a
snapshot.
Was there a gun in his shoe,
or was this a slap shot?
Was this a picture of teenage
emotional block-up,
or just another trophy for the lockup?

Who killed Michael Taylor?
Did he take his own life,
or was it the jailer?

Mayor Hudnut called a meeting,
he said it would be brief.
Michael shot himself while
handcuffed,
according to Paul Anee
the police chief.
They said that it happened
upon the hill
where they left him alone
and he swallow the pill.

And no one really knew
what to do it first,
but with all the bad blood
the people thought the worst.
So they've marched with a coffin
and they sang in the choir.
They held a rally
because the fat was in the fire.

Then a rookie held a circus
to prove he could dis-joint,
but everybody knew that wasn't the
point.
A young man has lost his life,

there are no alibis.
How can you see the truth
with mud in your eyes?

What really happened to Michael
Taylor,
was a shot and dumped at sea
just like a sailor?
Or was he too ashamed to face his
mother,
or did he try that outsmart the cops
just to be a brother?

No matter by whose hand it's a
tragedy.
No matter by whose hand it's bad
sociology:
A Homicide or a suicide,
a suicide or homicide...
it's all the same,
in this situation we're all to blame.

Look at it this way:
Michael Taylor wasn't perfect
and you know the police
don't wear a crown,
so how can we point of finger
when we all that Michael Taylor
down?

So tell me who killed Michael Taylor
did he take his own life.
or was it the jailer?

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This poem is inspired by the
September 24, 1987 shooting death
of Michael Taylor while in custody of
the Indianapolis Police Department.