Little Dirty Reverend Richard

Just like his life, the title says it all; Little Richard was a unique and robust classic rocker. He may not have been well known like Chuck Berry and Elvis, but Little Richard was probably the most controversial rocker with songs like “Tutti Frutti.” He was completely unpredictable as he had all the moves, talent and charisma just to leave it all behind so he could be Rev. Rich. Little Richard was ahead of his time as he is described to be “too outrageous, too raw, and too Black to capture the crown he so desperately wanted” (Friedlander, 50). Summing this can only begin to introduce who Little Richard was.

Little Richard, born Richard Pennimen, had the skills to be called a modern player with his numerous sexual encounters. Obviously being the most troublesome child out of the twelve in his family, Richard was “rambunctious, a practical joker, and uncontrollable into his teens” (Friedlander, 50). Although he may have had this bad boy side to him, Little Richard was talented with his unique vocal style. His songs may have been devils music to the extremely conservative adults, but Little Richards music brought all races together at his shows. He might begin his show and the blacks might be in segregated seats, but as soon as Little Richard began is “pandemonium” everyone was one as they watched him perform. It is no coincidence that adults associated rock-and-roll with sex
because all they had to do was listen to some of Little Richards lyrics or song titles.

More specifically “Tutti Frutti:”

I got a girl named Daisy,
She almost drives me crazy
She knows how to love me,
Yes indeed
Boy you don’t know
What she’s doing to me

He is one of the first artists to actually talk about sexual experiences in his lyrics, but
more specifically, one of the first one to explicitly sing freely about them. Bumps

Blackwell had to have his lyrics censored because some parts of the some were too
descriptive and way out of line for this period in time:

Tutti frutti, good booty
If it don’t fit, don’t force it
You can grease it, make it easy

One can only imagine the outrage that would of happened if Blackwell had not had the
lyrics somewhat censored.