

Pins and Needles

recessions were induced
- William Greider

Who will tell the people
the secrets of the temple?

madness in high places
high crimes *contra natura*

obscene wealth created
ex nihilo

financial instruments
as weapons of mass destruction

the coin of the realm minted
in nomine populi

then taken away as taxes
from those who have least

given as *droit du seigneur*
to private interests

returns on savings so low
everyone buys on time instead

mortgages on homes foreclosed
homeless and jobless in the streets

then borrowed back in a lender's market

ungodly profits on treasury notes

the major banks bailed out
while farms go broke and factories close

the dealers in arms and currency
never at a loss in a pinch

compounding the national debt
with personal bankruptcies

borrowing at interest
the practical fiction of legal tender

the sins of the fathers and so forth
genius vilified or ignored

to pay for all the common wealth
squandered on kindred insanities—

war, corruption, pollution, disease—
forked tongue on forked tail

the high priest of the state religion
the chief talking head of the bank of issue

intoning monetary dogma
blessing the puppet in the oval office

whose fiscal policy belies the myth
of representative democracy

determining between them how flat
the little guy will get squeezed

in the interest of high interest
how fat the bubbles will be inflated

how thick the cloud of speculation will be
spread by those who buy and sell debt

how high the unemployment will rise
before the point of the pin trade is factored in