

if followed swallow for swallow with Perrier water,  
no antacids will be necessary.

I thought of expanding this poem into an article  
for Holiday magazine,

but I'm not sure the public is ready for my method.

### THREE TO BOGGLE THE MIND

#### i

I was riding the freeway  
when I heard him say it, honest to God,  
this very high official in our government:

"We have the most perfect system in the world;  
the problem lies in getting it to work."

#### ii

At home I picked up the sports section.  
The headlines read:  
"Walton unimpressive in Madison Square Garden."  
Closer reading revealed the reference was to  
an interview with sportswriters.

#### iii

Finally, at my daughter's back-to-school night,  
the teacher said, "Her nose is always in a book,  
but I don't think we ought to worry yet."

### THE NADIR OF AMERICAN POETRY

In the middle of the Arizona desert  
they passed a huge Picasso billboard.

"What's that?" she asked.

"Oh," he replied,

"just another roadside abstraction."

### THE DECLINE OF EDUCATION

As I was waiting for the elevator  
a student asked me,  
"What floor is 419 on?"

The felony was compounded when I remembered  
that 419 is the English office.