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Voice on the Road

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VOICE ON THE ROAD

No, soldiers! do not go,
 for the road ends here!
 Sleep in my warm dry room,
 not in the damp cold grass;
 drink water fresh from my well,
 not filth from the muddied pool;
 see how the afternoon falls
 and how the evening rises:
 rifle springs up after rifle;
 bullet answers bullet;
 but do not follow,
 for the road ends here!

NICOLÁS GUILLÉN

—*Cantos Para Soldados y Sones Para Turistas*
 (English version by Joseph Leonard Grucci.)

CONQUEST FOR MUSSOLINI

The lethargic highbacked turtle,
 No way geared for sleek evasion
 Nor practiced to the ruthlessness
 Of powered destination,

Water-led across the highway
 Inches on where furious speed
 Over indurate cruel cement
 Ridicules the simple need. . . .

Now it lies a carrion blob,
 Red-mashed, guardless, dished-up prey
 For the blackshirt wary crow,
 Gorging, eye cocked either way.

C. V. WICKER