Room and Board

Is the inevitable end
  Of mansions rooming houses?
A pause along a downward trend
  Until the New Deal rouses

And brings at last slum clearance in?
  The sunny rooms up front,
Unlighted "third floor back" within.
  Their owner bears the brunt

Of the unrentable, *her* room
  A space below the stairs.
Her roomers in the wartime boom
  Stenographers in pairs

Or 4-F bellhops too girl-shy
  To pimp; too, Mrs. Best,
Part time church organist; Bahai
  Who prey in convert's zest

On widowed waitresses; and, suave
  As any gigolo,
Income we are uncertain of,
  Sales rep for Kwik-Hair-Grow.

Mute pendulum of war's grim fro
  And to, the front porch swing
Clocks too the changing status quo,
Foreruns foreclosures peace will bring,
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