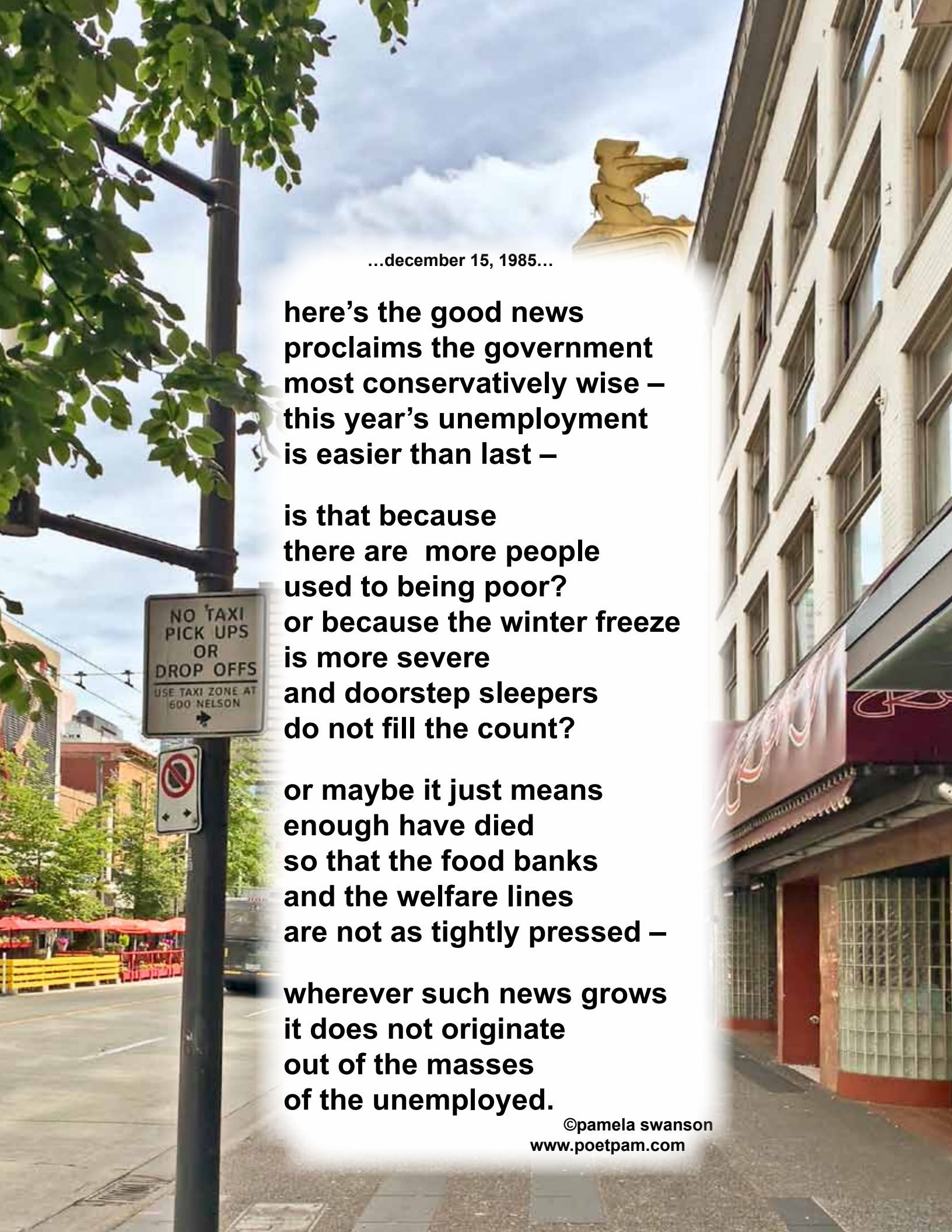




...december 15, 1985...

**here's the good news
proclaims the government
most conservatively wise –
this year's unemployment
is easier than last –**

**is that because
there are more people
used to being poor?
or because the winter freeze
is more severe
and doorstep sleepers
do not fill the count?**

**or maybe it just means
enough have died
so that the food banks
and the welfare lines
are not as tightly pressed –**

**wherever such news grows
it does not originate
out of the masses
of the unemployed.**

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