

## **God, and King, and Denis Law**

*written on hearing – incorrectly– that Tony Blair was a Manchester City fan,  
for Trevor Griffiths, who really is*

As I lay asleep in Germany,  
there came a voice from over the sea,  
and with great power it forth led me  
to walk in the visions of Poesy.

When the dust had settled on Utopia  
and the Dulux gloss had hardened  
to a cold pale blue,  
the people's government found they had  
some fine tuning to do.

Curt directives came from Downing Street:  
the Free Trade Hall in Manchester was to be  
renamed the Mike Summerbee Mall;  
the National Anthem became 'Swing Lee Sweet Chariot';  
Trevor Griffiths was appointed as Poet Laureate;  
the Hallé Orchestra would be re-constituted as  
the Freddie and the Dreamers Revival Band;  
relegation from the Premier League was to be  
suspended – just to be on the safe side.

But when fighting broke out along Denis Law Way,  
as the Peace Line had recently been called,  
the Leader of the Opposition in the upper house,  
Lord Stiles of Stretford End,  
roundly condemned Queen Camilla, who the day before  
had called in at the Manchester City Superstore  
(formerly Harrods of Oxford Street).

There she had praised the new legislation  
that had given merchandising access  
to those not fortunate enough to live in the North West.

As she took a Colin Bell memento mug  
and a Frank Swift replica jersey from the rack,

she announced that she, the previous week at Sotheby's, had been the mystery buyer behind the bid for Bert Trautmann's 1958 Cup Final neck brace (in honour of her husband's German stiff-upper-neck ancestors).

At a mass rally of the Red Spartacus League at St. Peter's Field, oblivious to protocol, Lord Best, preserved in alcohol, read, through a megaphone, Shelley's 'Mask of Anarchy'. The main speakers were Posh and Becks – Old Trafford's Luxemburg and Liebknecht – eloquent, oracular; a volcano heard afar.

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## **Unprecedented nuclear weapons spending**

His nuclear disarmament rhetoric notwithstanding, a plan submitted to Congress by President Obama projects an investment of 'well over' \$185 billions by 2020 to maintain and modernize US nuclear weapons systems. The FY 2012 budget request includes \$7.6 billion for programs related to nuclear warheads – an 8.9 per cent increase over the President's FY 2011 request. This includes increased funding for three new nuclear weapons production plants and a new Life Extension Program for the B61 warhead, a US bomb still deployed at NATO bases in Europe.

In response to the President's commitment to modernize all three legs of the 'strategic triad' of nuclear weapons delivery systems, the FY 2012 budget request also includes \$197 million for research and development on a new Air Force long-range nuclear bomber, \$1.07 billion to develop a new replacement ballistic missile submarine, and \$2.6 million to study a future Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.

*Jackie Cabasso, Western States Legal Foundation*