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INSTALLATION OF GRAND MARSHALL, SHERATON CENTRE, MARCH 3 1986.

The proceedings were introduced by Frank <sup>BEIRNE</sup> Parade Chairman, 1986. John Sweeney, a former Grand Marshall and prominent trade union official was M C for the rest of the proceedings.

The first speaker was Congressman Biaggi, who announced that a Bill to provide financial aid for Northern Ireland would be taken in Congress this week. According to Congressman Biaggi the level of financial aid envisaged is of the order of \$50 million per annum over a five year period. Mr. Biaggi went on to claim personal credit for this assistance, saying that it had come about as a result of a Bill which he had introduced three years ago.

Other speakers included Peter King who paid tribute to Mr. O' Hagan's efforts on behalf of "Peace with Justice" in N. Ireland. M. Flannery was also present on the dais and was acknowledged as a former Grand Marshall. He did not speak.

An apparently unscheduled speaker was Mr. Michael Mann, a trade union official and self styled president of the Yiddish Sons of Erin. The Parade Chairman, Mr. Beirne attempted to prevent John Sweeney from giving Mann a speaking opportunity but Sweeney ignored him. In the circumstances Mr. Beirne could do nothing about it. Mr. Mann proceeded to launch into a stage-Irish Republican diatribe, which included statements such as "Israel did not gain its freedom by talking out of both sides of its mouth like the present Irish Government." Many on the dais were clearly embarrassed but Sweeney did not intervene or cut him short, despite the injunction respected by all other speakers to keep their remarks as brief as possible.

Ken Tierney, one of the Fort Worth Five was a scheduled speaker. He spoke briefly on the Doherty case and asked the audience to "remember the prisoners in your prayers"

Comptroller Goldin spoke about the MacBride Principles and said that he had had a meeting with General Motors yesterday but he was sorry to report that they were still resisting the adoption of the Principles.

The Grand Marshall's address was reasonably moderate, although he did state that he had carried an "England out of Ireland" banner in the Parade as a teenager and he would, as Grand Marshall, be proud to review any group carrying that banner this year. His view of the Parade was that it was primarily to honour the achievements of the Irish in America and to honour Ireland's national Saint. It should be a festive and joyous family occasion. Most Hibernian speakers before him had referred to the 150th. anniversary and Mr. O' Hagan emphasised this aspect very strongly. The proceedings

concluded with a prayer from Bishop Sullivan of Brooklyn and the singing of "A Nation Once Again" by the Grand Marshall's daughter.

I was given tickets for the reviewing stand.

*A. G. ...*  
Vice Consul

4 March 1986.