

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

July 11, 1977

No. 328

WILLIAM V. SHANNON SWORN IN AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND

William V. Shannon of Massachusetts was sworn in today as United States Ambassador to Ireland, succeeding Walter J.P. Curley, Jr.

Mr. Shannon was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on August 24, 1927. Educated in the Worcester public schools, he was graduated from Clark University in 1947. After two years of graduate study in history at Harvard University, where he received a Master of Arts degree in 1948, he served briefly as Associate Editor of The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt. He has received honorary degrees (Doctor of Humane Letters) from Clark University, Boston University, and the College of New Rochelle. He is an Associate Fellow of Morse College at Yale University.

In 1951, Ambassador Shannon joined the Washington staff of The New York Post as a news correspondent. From 1957 to 1964, he was a columnist on national affairs. From 1956 to 1964, he was also a consultant on American politics and a regular contributor to The Economist of London. He served for several years as Washington columnist for Commonweal.

In 1964, the Ambassador joined the Editorial Board of The New York Times, where he served until 1977. He contributed editorials and articles on national and foreign affairs, on the environment and on politics. He has received various journalistic honors, including the Page One Award of the New York Newspaper Guild for national coverage, the Meeman Award of the Scripps-Howard Foundation for writings on conservation, and the Gold Medal of the Eire Society of Boston for service to literature.

Ambassador Shannon is the author and co-author of several books, including The American Irish, The Truman Merry-Go-Round, The Heir Apparent, and They Could Not Trust The King.

He served as a Fellow-in-Residence at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, California,

in 1961 and 1962; and he was chosen by the Alicia Patterson Fund as a Traveling Fellow to study political institutions in Great Britain in 1969 and 1970.

Until his appointment as Ambassador to Ireland, Ambassador Shannon was a lay member of the Advisory Committee on Social Development and World Peace of the United States Catholic Conference and a lector at Ephantany Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. He is a trustee of Clark University and a director of the American Irish Foundation. He is a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington, and the Century Club of New York.

The Ambassador is married to the former Elizabeth McNelly, and they have three sons.

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