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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13559
Folder ID Number: 13559-012

Folder Title:
St. Patrick's Day Talking Points 3/18/91 [OA 60311]

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TALKING POINTS FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Mr. Speaker. As a representative of the O'Bush clan, I'm delighted to be here among so many fellow Irishmen today. O'Mitchell; O'Lowery; O'Slattery, and all the rest. And I did bring with me a member of my staff whose name shows he's a son of "the auld sod": stand up, Fred McClure.

By the way, there's no truth to the rumor that kinder, gentler, Sean O'Sununu plans to wield his shillelagh (shill-LAY-lee) to win support on the Hill this term.

But I want to be serious for a moment. That's appropriate, because while the Irish are a people of great joy and love of life, there's also a fierce streak of determination in them.

Legendary Irish heroes and our very real Desert Storm heroes share something more than their astounding courage. Something more than even their vision. The fierce love of country embodied by both groups-- so many centuries apart--inspired great patriotism in their homelands. The virtue and rightness of their cause restored to their countrymen the finest values --loyalty, family, and faith.

A poet wrote a verse about old Irish heroes: "Then here's to their memory. May it be for us a guiding light/ To cheer our strife for liberty, and teach us to unite."

Well, I'd better close now-- because on St. Patrick's Day you're supposed to spend time with saints and scholars -- which means I have two more stops to make.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker, for this hospitality. Now let's get on with our thousand pints of light.